



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تليز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Iranian parliament re-elects speaker

TEHRAN (R) — The Iranian parliament re-elected its radical speaker Mehdi Karrubi, a vocal opponent of any move to restore relations with the United States, by a wide majority on Wednesday. Karrubi, 54, beat moderate Mohammad Mowhohed Savaji by 193 votes in 81, the evening daily Kayhan reported. Karrubi, a member of the hardline militant clergy faction, often says that Washington can never be Iran's friend and Israel should be opposed by force. "We will have relations with all countries of the world except for the United States, Israel and South Africa," he said in a speech last week. Karrubi was first elected in the position in 1989 after Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker for the first nine years of the Islamic consultative assembly (Majlis) formed after the 1979 revolution, became president. He was re-elected last year with 155 votes. Karrubi has firmly defended the Majlis, which is dominated by hardliners, in various rows with other centres of power but has sought to curb the worst wranglings.

Western hostages to be freed soon — Iran

ISFAHAN, Iran (R) — Iran expects Western hostages held by fundamentalist groups in Lebanon to be released soon but doubts their freedom will lead to a quick restoration of ties with the United States, Iranian officials said on Wednesday. The hostage issue was a bone of contention in Iran's bid to win Western finance for President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's ambitious reconstruction programme. Washington has repeatedly said it would not resume relations with Iran until the 12 Westerners, including six Americans, were released. Ties were cut in 1980, the year after the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution. "The hostage game is over. Chances are that their whole ordeal will end," Abbas Maleki, a deputy foreign minister, told Reuters. "I can see some sort of movement on the hostage issue," he said. Asked when he expected the hostages to be released, Maleki, who chaired a three-day international oil conference which ended on Wednesday in Iran's coastal city of Isfahan said: "I can't tell you when exactly, but soon."

Volume 16 Number 4713

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MAY 30-31, 1991, TH AL QU'DEH 16-17, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Iraq to attend OPEC meeting

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq said on Wednesday that it would send its new oil minister to next week's OPEC meeting in Vienna. The Iraqi News Agency INA quoted Oil Minister Usama Abdul Razzak as saying that by participating in the meeting Iraq sought to support OPEC's policy in a manner that would serve the interests of both producing and consuming nations. Iraq sought to obtain a "real oil price per barrel," he said. Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries ministers meet on June 4 to discuss production levels needed to defend oil prices, currently more than three dollars below the official OPEC reference price of \$21 a barrel. Abdul Razzak, appointed minister of state for oil in the government formed by Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi in March, became Iraq's new oil minister on Monday. The Minister of Heavy Industry and Military Industrialisation, General Amer Hammoudi Al Saadi, had hitherto been serving as acting oil minister.

Iran denies turmoil report

PARIS (R) — The Iranian embassy in France rejected on Wednesday a report by opposition guerrillas describing turmoil among the Tehran leadership. "I formally deny this false and baseless news," embassy spokesman Massoud Gharanfoli told Reuters. Opposition Mujahideen guerrillas in Paris said on Tuesday that Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani tendered his resignation last week in a policy dispute but supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had rejected it. A Mujahideen spokesman said there had been a series of battles over economic, political and social policy inside the Tehran government.

Yemen declares Aden free zone

ADEN, Yemen (R) — Yemen on Wednesday declared Aden, once of the world's busiest ports, a free-trade zone again. A statement issued after a cabinet meeting in the capital Sanaa said the government had set up a special committee to take immediate measures to re-establish the zone. Aden, at the mouth of the Red Sea, has become a backwater. But the government wants the city to recover the role it once played as a major port for ships plying to and from India and the East. It also plans to set up an industrial area building new factories and modernising Aden's 36-year-old oil refinery. A year ago traditional North Yemen and Socialist South Yemen merged into one country.

Bahrain PM visits Kuwait

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — Bahrain's Prime Minister, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Sulman Al Khalifa, paid a brief visit to Kuwait Wednesday, his second since Iraq's troops withdrew from the emirate three months ago. The Gulf News Agency said Sheikh Khalifa had talks with Kuwaiti counterpart, Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al Abdullah Al Sabah, on Gulf development and ways of boosting cooperation within the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Red Star win European Cup on penalties

BARI, Italy (R) — Red Star Belgrade won the European Cup final on penalties on Wednesday at the end of a disappointing game which failed to produce a single goal in two hours of tepid soccer. A missed spot kick by full back Manuel Amoros in the French side's first attempt ultimately cost victory for Bernard Tapie's expensively assembled outfit as they went down 5-3 on penalties. Striker Darko Panecv, blotted out of the game in a one-sided match which had been totally dominated by Marseille, had the honour of blasting home the winning penalty to an explosion of joy from the 18,000 Yugoslav fans in the San Nicola Stadium. It was the first time a Yugoslav team had won the European Cup and only the second that a team from Eastern Europe had done so.

President invites big five to work out details Bush wants ceiling on Mideast arms, curb on mass-destruction weapons

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (R) — President George Bush announced a plan Wednesday to try to halt the spread of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and restrain conventional arms build-ups. In an address to graduates at the U.S. air force academy, Mr. Bush outlined details of proposals intended to curb the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in the region as well as ballistic missiles that can deliver them.

"Halting the proliferation of conventional and unconventional weapons in the Middle East — while supporting the legitimate need of every state to defend itself — will require the cooperation of many states in the region and around the world," the president said. Mr. Bush called on the world's five major arms suppliers to meet soon to establish guidelines for restraining sales of conventional arms, as well as weapons of mass destruction and related technology.

Ethiopians demonstrate against U.S.; rebels open fire, impose curfew

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — Rebel troops shot dead some anti-U.S. demonstrators in the Ethiopian capital on Wednesday. A spokesman for the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), Alemsegeb Gamlat, confirmed there had been dead and wounded but declined to give figures. Earlier, residents reported seeing several bodies lying in the streets after the protests, which came a day after the EPRDF captured the city in a dawn assault, toppling the remnants of former Marxist ruler Mengistu Haile Mariam's army.

Hospitals were unable to give any details of the number killed or wounded. Alemsegeb said armed gangs opened fire on EPRDF troops who had been ordered to fire into the air to disperse the protesters. "We suspect that the wounded and dead are the result of a deliberate conspiracy of armed gangs," he told reporters. He said the main participants in the demonstration were former ruling party members. He called them vagabonds, kids, students and former soldiers. The demonstrations were the first sign of anti-EPRDF sentiment since the rebels stormed the city and took power. The protests prompted the EPRDF to clamp a curfew on the city.

NATO warns EC

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO, agreeing on a major reshaping of forces for the post-cold war era, said on Wednesday it would remain the essential pillar for Western security and that organisations like the European Community must not undermine it. It was the latest twist in a complex debate about how Western Europe can take more responsibility for its defence now that the United States is expected to bring home many of its 320,000 troops stationed there.

Japan protests Cresson remarks, urges Iran-U.S. ties

TOKYO (R) — Japan warned France on Wednesday that its new prime minister, Edith Cresson, should tone down her criticism of Tokyo or risk damaging relations, a foreign ministry official said. Japan's foreign ministry summoned France's ambassador, Loic Heunekeine, to lodge a protest against recent remarks by Cresson that Japan was an unfair trader and had destroyed the U.S. car industry, the official said.

NATO defence ministers agreed on the most radical restructuring of forces since the alliance was founded in 1949 during two days of talks in Brussels, including the formation of a multinational "rapid reaction" force to deal with potential threats in Europe. But they also agreed that NATO, which ties the United States and Canada to European allies, could not be replaced by other organisations that are considering taking an active role in defence, such as the community or the Western European Union. "The European pillar is within our alliance," NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner told a news conference. "NATO will remain the essential forum for consultations among the allies and the forum for agreement on policies bearing on the security and defence commitments of its members," the defence ministers said in a statement at the end of the meeting. U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney told a news conference that Washington remained committed to the transatlantic link at the heart of NATO and that it would maintain substantial forces in Europe. "Whatever is done in the European context should be done in a way that strengthens the alliance," he said.

Hyodo added: "We fear that her comments, if repeated, could lead the people of our two countries in the wrong direction and have a detrimental effect on friendly ties." He said he would convey Japan's concerns to Paris, the official said. Since her appointment two weeks ago, Cresson has repeatedly slammed Japan, saying it had taken over the world's photographic industry, forced its own people to pay high prices at home to finance cheap exports and had sealed off the domestic market to foreign competition. "Japan is another universe which wants to conquer... that's the way they are," she recently told French television. "If we depend on the Japanese for imports of electronic products, they will always be in a position not to sell them or to sell them at high prices," she said. Meanwhile, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama arrived in Egypt on Wednesday for talks on Middle East peace and Gulf security. Before leaving Tehran for Cairo, Nakayama called for a resumption of relations between Iran and the United States. Nakayama said before leaving for Egypt that Iran and Japan would exchange delegations of experts to follow up economic agreements made during his three-day visit, Tehran radio said.

Arab scholars call for new order based on democracy, urge end to Iraq sanctions

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — The second pan-Arab national conference concluded its meetings in Amman Wednesday with a call for the establishment of a new Arab order based on democracy and broad popular political participation. In its final communiqué, approved by around 60 prominent pan-Arab thinkers and intellectuals, the conference also urged immediate action to lift the international embargo against Iraq and the withdrawal of foreign troops from the Gulf. Participants in the three-day conference stressed that the Gulf war has underscored the urgent need for democratisation in the Arab World. "Democracy should take priority in the pan-Arab national project. It (democracy) should not be sacrificed for any other value or cause — including Arab unity itself," the final communiqué said. Participants, who included leading pan-Arab nationalists, activists and former Baathists, reiterated commitment to Arab unity but said that it should not be achieved by force. "The conference stresses that Arab unity cannot and should not be attained by force... in fact enervation through any means is an act against Arab unity," the communiqué read. The participants, who during the conference condemned Arab governments which joined the U.S.-led alliance against Iraq, emphasised that working towards Arab unity should be based on peaceful means. The communiqué said that democracy was crucial to attaining and achieving pan-Arab national security and sovereignty. During the final session of the conference, Dr. Khair Eddine Hassib, director of the Beirut-based Arab Unity Studies Centre, was reelected secretary general of the conference permanent secretariat. Elections for a new secretariat were also held Wednesday. Twenty-five members were chosen by secret ballot. They included: Dr. Wamid

Nathmi (Iraq-who got highest number of votes), Mr. Maen Bashour (Lebanon), Mr. Issam Nouman (Lebanon), Mr. Hamad Farhan (Jordan), Mr. Mansour Kikha (Libya), Mr. Jassem Al Katami (Kuwait), Mr. Ali Khalifeh Al Kawari (Qatar), Dr. Assad Abdul Rahman (Palestine), Mr. Ahmad Sudqi Dajani (Palestine), Mr. Mohammad Faeq (Egypt), Mr. Dey'a Falaqi (Iraq), Mr. Mohammad Abed Al Jaheri (Morocco), Mr. Abdul Azziz Balgazz (Morocco), Mr. Tal'at Musallim (Egypt), Ms. Muhsenah Tawfiq (Egypt), Dr. Hisham Sharabi (Palestine), Mr. Hussam Issa (Egypt), Mr. Taher Labib (Tunisia), Mr. Mohammad Al Atrash (Syria), Mr. Masoud Al Shabi (Tunisia), Mr. Najah Waqem (Lebanon), Mr. Abdul Khaleq Abdullah (United Arab Emirates), Mr. Mohammad Taher Al Adwani (Algeria), Mr. Ali Lutfi Al Thour (Yemen) and Mr. Rasoul Al Gaashi (Bahrain). Earlier in Tuesday's afternoon session, participants stressed the significance of organising annual Arab youth

Masri urges U.S. to continue Middle East peace efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Senior officials from Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Wednesday held talks on the ongoing political consultations to find a peaceful settlement to the Palestine problem and later announced that they would continue further contacts. Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said Jordan was still interested to see progress in the United States efforts for peace, and in the continuation of these efforts to hold a peace conference, but noted that Israel's intransigence was obstructing these efforts. Jordan, Masri said, welcomes a joint meeting by Arab parties directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict should there be an agreement on such a meeting. Speaking after his meeting with Mr. Farouk Al Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political department, Mr. Masri said that the PLO delegation briefed the Jordanian government on the Syrian-PLO talks in Damascus during the past two days. The minister stressed that a common ground between the PLO, Syria and Jordan on various matters related to the political settlement of the Middle East crisis, especially on the concept that international legitimacy should be implemented with regard to exchanging land for peace in accordance with U.N. Security Council resolutions. According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the two sides reviewed efforts for a settlement in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question as well as the outcome of a PLO team's visit in Damascus. The PLO team included Yasser Abed Rabbo, Suleiman Al Najah and Palestine Ambassador in Jordan Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim. Kaddoumi said that the PLO's demand is clear, and demands an independent Palestinian state, withdrawal of all Israeli troops from the occupied territories including Jerusalem, and the removal of all the Jewish settlements. Should there be clear signs of a just settlement to the Palestine problem and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, Kaddoumi said, all the other side issues can be settled. He said that all Washington's efforts are so far centered on

procedural matters, and did not touch the substance; but when the substance is debated the PLO would present its clear views, said Kaddoumi following his meeting with Masri. Describing his visit here as part of the PLO's drive to maintain coordination with the Jordanian as well as the Syrian governments, Kaddoumi said that the PLO was involved in a campaign to unify the Arab countries stands with regard to a political settlement and the campaign will continue. Kaddoumi said efforts were under way to convene a meeting for Jordan, Syria, the PLO, Lebanon and Egypt, a matter already discussed with the Arab League general secretariat. It is hoped that the Arab League would serve as a tool to unify Arab countries stands and bridge rifts caused by the Gulf crisis, Kaddoumi added. He said that the last Arab League meeting in Cairo marked the beginning of efforts to end Arab differences. Referring to the ongoing Jewish immigration to occupied

Egypt calls on U.S., Soviet Union to speed up peace drive

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Egypt said Wednesday it has urged the United States and the Soviet Union to speed up Middle East peace efforts despite Israeli intransigence. Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, in his first news conference since taking office last week, accused Israel of obstructing U.S.-led peacemaking by putting up new settlements on the occupied Arab lands. Moussa also ruled out doing business with former close ally President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, saying Egypt lost trust in him when he invaded Kuwait last August. The news conference was mainly about U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker's quest to arrange a peace conference among Israel, its Arab neighbours and the Palestinians. Baker has made four Middle East tours since the Gulf war ended Feb. 28 seeking a conference that would initiate direct negotiations. Moussa said he telephoned Baker about the mission this week and messaged him and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh "to emphasise the importance of accelerating efforts to achieve a formula for the peace process."

On his last tour this month, Baker conferred twice in Cairo with his Soviet colleague. Their two governments would co-sponsor the proposed conference. Baker's diplomacy has been hampered largely by Israeli-Syrian disagreements. Syria demands, and Israel opposes, active participation in the conference by the United Nations. Syria wants the conference to reconvene should negotiations deadlock. Israel wants a single international session, to do no more than initiate direct talks. Baker told congressional committees this month that a major obstacle facing him is Israel's continued settlement-building in the territories occupied for 24 years. "There are divergent positions and intransigence on Israel's part," Moussa said. "But international efforts are seeking to surmount existing difficulties. The building of settlements undoubtedly poisons the general atmosphere of the peace process. Halting them would facilitate the process." Moussa upheld the right of Jews anywhere to emigrate to Israel "on condition they are not settled in the occupied Palestinian lands, namely Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem."

150,000 killed in Gulf war — Greenpeace

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 150,000 people have died as a result of the war with Iraq and at least 5 million have lost their homes or jobs, Greenpeace reported Wednesday. Between 5,000 and 15,000 Iraqi civilians died in aerial bombings, the environmental protection organisation estimated, basing its figures on interviews with international relief workers, reporters, U.S. officials and news reports. The civilian war deaths occurred despite allied efforts to ensure their actions were viewed as humane and their use of precision "smart" weapons to pinpoint military targets, Greenpeace said. Overall, allied actions "could be seen as paving the way for

positive new standards for humanitarian and military conduct," the authors of the report said. "Iraq's gross behaviour, particularly its devastation of the natural environment, serves as a sad contrast," they added. The report is the first comprehensive survey on the human and environmental toll of the 43-day allied war against Iraq — estimated that: 100,000 to 120,000 Iraqi troops died during the war. 5,000 to 15,000 Iraqi civilians died during the war. 2,000 to 5,000 Kuwaitis died during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and ensuing war. 20,000 Iraqis died in the month-long civil war set off by

Algerian police attack demonstrators with gas

ALGIERS (R) — Police fired tear gas at demonstrators in the Algerian capital Wednesday, the first such clash in five days of protests backing a general strike called by Islamic fundamentalists. Eyewitnesses said police opened fire with gas grenades in at least three areas of the capital to disperse demonstrators calling for an immediate Islamic state. Several thousand students had gathered outside Houari Boumedienne University to support demands by the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) for changes in electoral laws. They say the laws, introduced last March, favour the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) in general elections due on June 27. The FIS called an indefinite strike from last Saturday in protest at the laws and to press for President Chadli Benjedid to step

down. After the police action, FIS leader Abbassi Madani issued a statement urging his supporters not to respond to what he called "provocation." He told them to refuse to disperse on police orders and just to reply with verses from the Holy Koran. Last June, the FIS emerged as the main opposition party after taking control of more than 50 per cent of municipalities during the first multiparty elections since Algerian independence in 1962.

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Sudan asks for help to cope with Ethiopian influx

KHARTOUM (R) — Impoverished Sudan, struggling to keep its own people fed, appealed Wednesday for international relief aid for 15,000 Ethiopians who have taken refuge in eastern Sudan and another 150,000 it said were on the way.

The refugees, including some wounded soldiers and their families, flooded across the border after separate rebel groups took control of the neighboring Ethiopian province of Eritrea and ousted the Marxist government in Addis Ababa.

Sudan Radio quoted the commissioner for refugees as saying the refugees were in urgent need of food and medicine. He appealed to the international community and humanitarian groups to come to their aid, the radio said.

The commissioner, retired brigadier Abdul Rahman Sir Al Khatim, said about 1,300 of the 15,000 refugees already in eastern Sudan were soldiers. Some were

wounded. He said 15,000 more Ethiopians were headed towards the border.

Drought and civil war have ravaged both countries. Although Sudan's military government denies United Nations reports that 7.5 million Sudanese are facing hunger, it concedes there is a "food gap" caused by drought, crop failures in the north and eight years of civil war in south Sudan.

The radio said Sudan's military ruler Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir had congratulated Ethiopian rebel leaders for their victories and praised the United States for brokering a peace agreement reached in London.

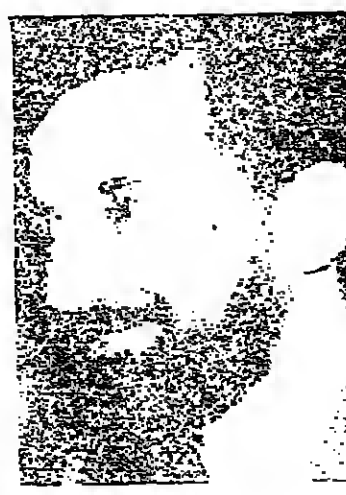
The Tigrayan-led Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) took power in Addis Ababa after a dawn assault Tuesday, exactly a week after President Mengistu Haile Mariam was forced into exile.

The Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front (EPLF) gained full control of the Red Sea province of Eritrea last week, capturing the provincial capital of Asmara and the port city of Asah as Mengistu's army collapsed.

Khartoum had long accused Mengistu's government of backing rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in a civil war in southern Sudan that has claimed 300,000 lives. Mengistu in turn said Sudan supported the Ethiopian rebels.

Sudan Radio said Bashir had spoken by telephone with EPRDF leader Meles Zenawi and had also been in contact with EPLF leader Isaias Aferewek. Both rebel leaders were in London.

"Bashir congratulated the EPRDF for its takeover of power in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, the EPLF for its liberation of Eritrea and the United States for brokering the London peace agreement," the radio said.



Ali Akbar Velayati

Velayati heads to Brazil

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati headed a delegation to Brazil Wednesday amid a climate of political and diplomatic outreach by the Tehran government.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Velayati was invited by his Brazilian counterpart, Francisco Rezak, and would meet with President Fernando Collor De Mello and other officials during a two-day visit.

Velayati met Tuesday evening with Japan's Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama who expressed interest in overall broadening of Iranian-Japanese cooperation, especially in economic relations, IRNA reported.

Nakayama, who arrived in Tehran Monday on a three-day visit, said a Japanese economic delegation would travel to Iran soon for talks with Iranian officials, the agency said.

"Both sides described Nakayama's visit to Iran as a positive step towards bringing the two countries closer and voiced readiness to promote political, economic and cultural ties with respect to common interests of the two nations," said IRNA, which is monitored in Nicosia.

On Monday, President Hashemi Rafsanjani opened an international conference of oil producers and consuming nations by saying Iran wanted to cooperate with other countries over oil "within the framework of an overall understanding void of political conflicts."

The statement marked a pattern of moves by Rafsanjani and other so-called pragmatists aimed at improving international ties.

Iran has moved steadily toward restoring relations with other Gulf countries and Western nations. Those relations were badly damaged by fallout from the Islamic revolution that swept the country 12 years ago and further strained by the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, which pitted Persian Iran against its Arab neighbors.

The oil conference is the first such gathering Iran has hosted in a decade.

Tehran says 1 m Iraqi refugees still in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Tehran said Tuesday that a million Iraqi refugees were still in Iran and only 250,000 had returned home.

More Shi'ite Muslims were expected to flee to Iran because Baghdad was increasing the pressure on them, the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) quoted Ahmad Hosseini, an Interior Ministry official in charge of the refugees, as saying.

Hosseini said Iran had over the past two months registered 1,178,586 Iraqi refugees who crossed the border to escape reprisal attacks by the Iraqi army following the collapse of twin post-Gulf war revolts in Iraq.

Tehran Radio quoted Hosseini as saying some 100,000 also entered Iran without being registered in the first rush of refugees.

Most of the refugees were Kurds. Hundreds died of cold, hunger and disease on the journey or were blown up by mines sown along the border during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Hosseini said 900,000 were housed in 150,000 tents set up in 68 refugee camps and some of the rest lived as guests in private homes.

"The Iraqi refugees are free to return home ... Thus far 250,000 of them have returned," IRNA quoted him as saying.

The homeward trek began early in May when Western forces

set up safety zones for Kurds in northern Iraq and Kurdish rebel leaders reported progress in autonomy talks with government officials in Baghdad.

Iranian media have reported sporadic clashes with government troops in southern Iraq, where they say hundreds of thousands of ordinary people are hiding in marshes from the army.

Tehran Radio quoted Hosseini as saying foreign assistance for the refugees amounted to 24,000 tonnes of supplies flown in aboard 606 flights from 42 countries and \$10 million in cash, including a six-million-dollar cheque donated by the Japanese government Tuesday.

Twelve plane loads came from the United States, the official said, but Iran refused to take delivery of three which contained second-hand items.

It also returned a shipment of used items sent from France, which raised first among donors followed by Germany, Britain, Pakistan and Belgium, Hosseini said.

Iran, which says it spends \$15 million a day for the refugees, has criticised the West for sending more aid to Turkey which received half as many refugees on its frontier with Iraq.

Hosseini said 441 German and 130 Austrian troops were building camps and hospitals in western Iran for the refugees.

Moderate Afghan rebels vow to exclude radicals

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — Moderate Muslim rebels fighting to topple Afghanistan's communist-style government vowed Tuesday to exclude radical guerrillas in a post-war settlement.

Sighatullah Mojaddidi, president of a rebel government-in-exile, told a news conference in this rugged border town that the radicals had support only in Pakistan.

He also cautiously accepted a United Nations' peace plan but warned that Afghan president Najibullah and his "communist friends" could not be part of a political solution to the conflict.

"No one is interested in power-sharing with Najib," Mojaddidi said.

The 13-year-old war has killed at least 1.5 million people. Another 5 million Afghans are refugees in Iran and Pakistan.

He confirmed that a meeting of guerrilla leaders based in Iran and Pakistan would be held in Peshawar early next month to forge a transitional government in line with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar's proposals.

Perez De Cuellar's peace plan also envisions a cease fire, elections and eventually a broad-based government sitting in Kabul.

The transitional government would represent all quarters of Afghan society and would steer the war-ravaged nation through elections.

Turkish troops kill 12 rebel Kurds

ANKARA (R) — Turkish security forces have killed 12 members of a Kurdish group fighting the Ankara government in two clashes in the southeast, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said Wednesday.

Ten members of the outlawed Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) were killed after rebels opened fire on a military patrol near the town of Pazarcik in Kahramanmaraş Province late

Tuesday, it said.

Two other PKK guerrillas were killed in a clash in Zengok village in Mus province.

The PKK has been fighting since 1984 for an independent state. Its aims go further than those of Iraq's Kurdish minority, who are negotiating with Baghdad on autonomy within Iraq.

More than 3,000 people, including civilians, have been killed in the seven-year PKK campaign.

Vassiliou hopes for solution despite Turkish gains in Gulf war

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cypriot President George Vassiliou said Tuesday that he hopes President George Bush will push Turkey to end the division of Cyprus.

"All the elements for a Cyprus solution are present," Vassiliou said in a speech to the National Press Club, adding several nations were pressing for reunification of the island divided since the Turkish invasion of 1974.

He said Cyprus had yet to benefit from international changes under Bush's declared move to "a new world order."

"The last three years brought about major changes in the world, especially Eastern Europe," Vassiliou said. "There has been progress and even re-

solution of what appeared to be intractable problems such as Namibia, Afghanistan and many others."

He said Greek Cypriots were willing to meet all the demands of the Turkish Cypriots and would even accept a disproportionately large part of the island going to the Turkish community if agreement can be reached on a federated republic.

The problem was coming from new demands being made by the Turkish side, Vassiliou said.

"Our side has taken all the necessary steps forward in order to meet the concerns of the Turkish Cypriot community," he said. "If the real objective of Turkey is to safeguard the in-

terests of the Turkish Cypriots, one cannot understand why it does not move forward in a positive direction."

Vassiliou was asked whether Bush could be expected to pressure Turkey to move on the Cyprus issue in view of the favor the Turkish government had won through its cooperation with the anti-Iraq alliance during the Gulf war.

"Our position has always been clear," said Vassiliou. "We believe that solution of the problem is to the benefit of everybody. Therefore, by president Bush trying to help us solve the problem, at the end of the day he's also making a favor to Turkey."

Chief rabbi speaks out for Palestinians

By Stephen Goodwin
The Independent

LONDON — The chief rabbi, Lord Jakobovits, earlier this week demanded recognition of the Palestinians' "legitimate aspirations" and denounced the plight of Palestinian refugees as "a stain on humanity."

Though careful to avoid direct criticism of Israel, the chief rabbi condemned the "hinkered" and "self-destructive" approach to the Palestinian problem.

His remarks, in an interview with the writer A.N. Wilson, appeared in the London Evening Standard under the banner headline "Chief Rabbi Shames Israel" — an interpretation later dismissed by Lord Jakobovits's office as

an outrage.

But the tone of his interview was none the less condemnatory of the failure of Israel and Arab states to seek an agreed settlement. "This is a stain on humanity — people locked up in these wretched refugee camps for 40 years. We ought not to wait until terrorists draw attention to this. We could enlist the help of friendly Arabs. After all, there is no lack of wealth there. It ought to be possible to build secure lives for these people without further threatening anyone. We cannot forever dominate a million and a half Arabs, lord it over them."

Douglas Hogg, minister of state at the Foreign Office, yesterday, warned against setting

too many preconditions on a Middle East peace conference and "looking too carefully at the addresses" of the Palestinian representatives.

The inference behind Mr. Hogg's warning was that Israel should be more flexible over whom it accepted as Palestinian representatives at the proposed conference. It should not exclude the Palestine Liberation Organisation by barring those with address in Baghdad or Tunis.

The minister told MPs during a debate on British-Israeli relations that the Government was not telling Israel it must sit down with the PLO. But the PLO was "a factor" in the area and had a role to play.

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Enthusiasm for Yemen unity fades in Aden

By Mariam Isa
Reuters

ADEN — Enthusiasm for just year's merger between North and South Yemen is fading swiftly in what used to be the Arab World's ultra-leftist capital.

Many in the southern capital say they are relieved to have shaken off more than two decades of Marxist rule that turned the once bustling port of Aden into a neglected backwater after independence in 1967.

But their hopes of a quick transformation to a prosperous market economy have been dashed.

Rocketing prices have far outstripped salary increases since subsidies were lifted after the merger with conservative North Yemen in May 1990.

Top officials have moved to the northern capital, Sanaa, the seat of government in the merged state. Power has not been delegated to their representatives in Aden, making it impossible for them to make decisions.

Lawyers say promises of the return of businesses and property confiscated under socialism have not been fulfilled.

And entrepreneurs are still waiting for laws intended to attract foreign investment and restore Aden's former status as a free-trade zone.

"Unity as far as the southern province is concerned has worsened our position," said lawyer Sheikh Tariq Abdullah.

"People are generally happy with the idea of being one country but there is big disappointment. We are being openly told

matters will be decided in Sanaa and large numbers have been compelled to travel there for petty complaints," he told Reuters.

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and senior officials travelled to Aden Sunday to discuss some of the problems. Southern representatives say the talks are still going on.

"Before the merger, we dreamed of seeing more consumer goods on our shelves. Now, they are there, but people don't have the money to buy them," businessman Ali Ahmed said.

Many southerners — influenced by British colonisers, socialists, and African and Indian immigrants — have also been taken aback by an influx of tribal northerners since border restrictions were lifted late in 1989.

Eyebrows shoot up when North Yemeni youths, who see their weapons as a symbolic mark of manhood, stroll through hotel lobbies brandishing daggers or kalashnikov rifles.

Most women in Aden, who were less restricted by Islamic orthodoxy than those in the north, now cover up with headscarves or even veils to avoid being harassed by men travelling from the north to drink and meet prostitutes at seedy nightclubs.

Officials say there are no plans to ban imports of alcohol in Aden, as in the north. But the town's government-owned brewery, the only one in the Arabian peninsula, has been ordered to produce non-alcoholic malt beverage instead of beer.

Newspapers in the south are now free to publish whatever they like.

However, thefts and kidnappings, unheard of under the tough socialist security system, are now reported.

"Unity was a good idea but many people from the north are not civilised," teacher Issam Ibrahim said.

Voicing another widespread complaint, Sheikh Abdullah said northern officials were not learning from a better civil service in the south. Instead, many southern officials were becoming more corrupt and inefficient, he said.

"We never imagined things could get worse. But administration seems to have completely fallen to pieces."

Diplomats said the south was hit harder than the north when

wealthy Gulf Arab states — the main aid donors for both Yemens — froze assistance in retaliation for Sanaa's sympathy for Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

Although donors promised to complete some development projects under construction, work on a new hospital and housing district was almost at a standstill, they said.

But many people interviewed in the street back the merger, which ended three centuries of separation.

"Yes, prices are going up but we have won something which is emotionally satisfying," shopkeeper Mohammad Abdullah said.

"We are one family and one people. This is the main gain."

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

France wants Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon

PARIS (R) — France is to call for a withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon and free elections there, French President François Mitterrand's chief spokesman said Wednesday. Culture Minister Jack Lang, the official government spokesman, quoted Foreign Minister Roland Dumas as telling the weekly meeting of the French cabinet. "France intends, according to the new treaty (between Syria and Lebanon), to ask that Syria agree to withdraw its forces now occupying part of Lebanon's territory and that free elections be held." France ruled both Syria and Lebanon between the two world wars under a League of Nations mandate and has remained closely tied to Lebanon's once-dominant Christian Maronite community. The French government statement came a week after Syria and Lebanon's pro-Syrian cabinet signed a treaty to harmonise the future policies of Beirut with Syria.

'Israel-Lebanon border heating up'

TEL AVIV (AP) — More conflicts are likely along the Lebanese-Israeli border as a result of Syria's increased influence in Lebanon, a senior Israeli official said Tuesday. "I have no doubt in my mind that our problems along our border in the north will become more acute," said Uri Lubrani, the defence ministry's adviser on Lebanon policy. "We see a slow movement and deployment of Hizbollah in areas in which it had difficulty to deploy itself in the past," he said. Hizbollah are Shiite Muslim fundamentalists. "The Palestinians are also regrouping and from time to time we meet them on the border or within the confines of the security zone," said Lubrani, referring to the southern Lebanon border zone Israel controls as a buffer against guerrilla attacks. "I have a notion that it will take some time before we see actual action," Lubrani told a news conference. "But I have no doubt in my mind that there will be action and we will have to deal with it."

U.N. to examine war damage in Iran

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations disclosed Tuesday it would send a small team to Iran to investigate damages inflicted by Iraq during their eight-year war, which ended with a ceasefire in August 1988. The unusual move was the result of a request from Iran, which was concerned that "all clauses" in Security Council Resolution 598, adopted in July 1987, be fulfilled. This resolution called for ceasefire and spelled out terms for a peace settlement, which included placing blame for the war and assessing damages on both sides of the Iran-Iraq frontier. Diplomats said the request was a bit embarrassing for Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who wanted to display evenhandedness towards Iraq on this issue. Iraq has not requested a similar mission. Examining damage from the internal conflict in Iraq after the heavy allied bombing during the Gulf war would be impracticable, it said.

Dutch troops to leave northern Iraq

THE HAGUE (R) — One thousand Dutch troops stationed in northern Iraq will return home within a month, a Defence Ministry spokesman said Tuesday. Defence Minister Ruus Ter Beek took the decision after discussions with his fellow NATO defence ministers in Brussels, he said. The 600 ground troops and 400 marines are part of a 22,000-strong force from 12 countries which entered Iraq last month to safeguard the return of Kurdish refugees. All but 80,000 of the half million Kurds who fled to the mountains of the Iraq-Turkish border region have returned home, encouraged by the presence of foreign troops, and the allies are keen to pull their men out. The allies hope their task will be taken over by United Nations security guards, the first of whom moved into the Iraqi provincial capital of Dohuk a week ago. Some 450 will eventually be deployed throughout Iraq under post-Gulf war arrangements.

Killer of Arabs wins in Israeli computer game

TEL AVIV (R) — Two members of parliament called on Tuesday for a debate about a computer game in which the player who kills the most Arabs wins. Army radio said the existence of the game was disclosed by MPs Avraham Burg and Shevach Weiss of the opposition Labour Party. Burg said he received a letter from computer buffs telling him disks containing the anti-Arab game were being widely distributed in Israel. Anti-Arab sentiment among Israelis has risen during the 41-month-long Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, especially after a recent spate of stabbing attacks on Jews.

Iranian firefighters in Kuwait

ISFAHAN, Iran (AP) — Iranian firefighters have been contracted by the Kuwaiti government to put out 60 during oil wells. Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh said. Speaking to reporters at an oil conference here, Aqazadeh said Tuesday night that the contract would be worth about \$100 million and the work would take about six months. Aqazadeh, made a similar announcement two weeks ago. At the time, Kuwaiti officials denied a contract had been finalised. So far, U.S. firms have dominated the effort to put out about 600 oil well fires that were set by Iraqi troops before they ended their seven-month occupation of Kuwait. Kuwaiti Oil Minister Hamoud Rughbah told the Isfahan conference Monday that about 130 fires had already been extinguished. Aqazadeh said Iran gained its expertise in firefighting in the 1980-1988 war against Iraq, when Iraqi and U.S. forces damaged a number of its onshore and offshore oil installations.

Kuwait to return the 65,000 Bangladeshis

ABU DHABI (AP) — Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh has said that Kuwait is willing to allow the return of 65,000 Bangladeshis to the emirate. Mrs. Zia told reporters late Tuesday that Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, assured her the emirate would take back the Bangladeshis, who fled following Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion. There was no immediate comment by Kuwaiti authorities. The decision, if allowed through with the actual issuing of visas, would be a boon to impoverished Bangladesh because it would mean an increase in hard-currency remittances sent home from oil-rich Gulf nations. It also would indicate a possible shift by Kuwaiti authorities, which so far have not indicated a willingness to allow the return of large numbers of foreign workers.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Cartoons
18:30 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Day By Day
21:10 Black Forest Clinic
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie of the week: "Rage Against the Harvest"

PRAYER TIMES

05:55 Fajr
07:00 Sunrise (Starts)
12:30 Dhuhr
16:15 Asr
19:30 Maghrib
20:10 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De in Salla Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ignace Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 627981, 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and winds will be northerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to fresh and sea calm.

AMMAN

Dr. Adnan Al Zughoul 898140

Dr. Mufod Tazoua 884480

Dr. Ahmad Al Dagon 676773

Dr. Mohammad Abu Maftouh 793344

First pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637033

Neirouk pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Adnan Al Zughoul 898140

Dr. Mufod Tazoua 884480

Dr. Ahmad Al Dagon 676773

Dr. Mohammad Abu Maftouh 793344

First pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637033

Neirouk pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Min./max. temp.

Home News

Princess Basma inaugurates school in Jerash refugee camp

JERASH (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma opened Wednesday a United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) school for girls in Jerash refugee camp.

The school, financed by the Japanese government with half a million dollars, includes 18 classrooms, three administrative offices, an activities room, a laboratory and a library. The school, which consists of three floors, is expected to provide basic education for 1,580 students.

Princess Basma toured the school and met with teachers and students. Her Royal Highness

also visited a handicraft exhibition at the school.

The opening ceremony was attended by Director of the Palestinian Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry Ahmad Qatanani, several officials and Parliament members, the Japanese ambassador to Jordan and citizens from the camp.

For the purpose of improving the conditions of education for Palestine refugee children, the Japanese government funded another half a million dollars for constructing a similar school building for boys at Jerash camp, which has been used since October 1988.

APU calls for end to differences, unity

AMMAN (Petra) — An Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) meeting which has just ended in Tripoli, Libya, discussed matters related to the ongoing efforts to unify Arab ranks and end differences among Arab countries, according to Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat.

Dr. Arabiyat, who took part in the week-long discussions, said that heads of the Arab parliamentary delegations also held side meetings which were characterized by frankness and objectivity.

"They laid stress on the need for the Arab parliamentarians to help end differences among the Arab states and work in concert to attain common Arab goals," he said.

Addressing a press conference

in Amman, Dr. Arabiyat said that parliamentarians exerted strenuous efforts to come up with positive results, which, he said, would have their beneficial impact on inter-Arab relations.

Dr. Arabiyat said that the delegations members had emphasized the need to end differences and issued resolutions designed to stimulate the role of Arab League towards achieving unity among Arab states.

According to Dr. Arabiyat, the various delegations underlined the need to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, in wake of the Gulf war, and that of Lebanon. He said that the APU voiced support for the Palestinian intifada and expressed backing for any moves to stop the immigration of Jews into Palestinian territory.

Arab ministers of culture meet in Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the eighth Arab ministers of culture meeting due to open at the Arab League in Cairo Saturday under the theme "Arab children's culture," and it will be represented at the meetings by Minister of Culture and Youth Dr. Khaled Karaki.

The ministers are scheduled to review the implementation of their own resolutions passed at the previous meeting and to discuss the implementation of a number of pan-Arab cultural programmes in the Arab World, Dr. Karaki said in a statement here Wednesday.

The minister said that the meeting would also conduct a review of other cultural programmes, being implemented jointly in Arab countries, including the publication of a series of books on Arab art and the Arab press encyclopaedia, and will discuss the work of the Arab centre for

translation and publication as well as the various cultural projects undertaken by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALESCO).

Dr. Karaki is accompanied to the meeting by a three-member team from his ministry.

The seventh Arab ministers of culture meeting was held in Rabat last year when several resolutions and recommendations pertaining to culture were passed.

One of these was a decision to honour distinguished and creative writers and artists and the conclusion of an agreement to provide protection for the works of Arab authors and artists.

The Rabat meeting reviewed the general cultural situation in the Israeli-held Arab territories and the prospect of Arab countries carrying out projects in the occupied lands.

Traffic law updated

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian drivers risk having their driving licences revoked for life should they commit a certain number of serious traffic violations punishable by law, in accordance with a clause in the new traffic law being drawn up by the Ministry of Interior.

The director of traffic at the Ministry of Interior, Issa Mahmoud, said that the new law was an updated version of the traffic law number 14 which needed certain additions in order to make it clearer.

"To ensure better enforcement of safety measures on the road we must adjust certain clauses so that they include certain stipulations that were not previously clarified," Mr. Mahmoud said.

One such update is the new

clause that states that traffic violations by each driver are counted each year. If these violations and traffic related fines exceed a certain number the driving licence is revoked for life.

According to Mr. Mahmoud, the decision to revoke a driver's licence will depend on the actual severity of traffic offences, how potentially dangerous they are as well as their frequency.

He said that the licence may also be revoked temporarily in certain situations.

Informed sources at the Ministry of Interior said that the actual limit of the traffic tickets has not yet been stated as this particular update on the traffic law is still in the studying stage and must go through certain steps in the legislation office before the final decision to incorporate it in the law is made.

Callers complain of weak lines with Kuwait

AMMAN (J.T.) — One day after telephone links were restored between Jordan and Kuwait following a break of nearly 10 months, callers reported very weak lines and poor service.

A number of people who either made calls to or received calls from Kuwait said that the lines were so weak that they could barely hear some of the words at the other end.

Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Director Mohammad Shahed Ismail Tuesday announced that the telephone

lines were working again, and that callers should dial 0132 to get connected to the international dialling switchboard which in turn would make the link with Kuwait.

Mr. Ismail said that there were great numbers of people waiting to make calls and the TCC was making the service available at the rate of 83 calls per hour, expected to increase over the coming few days.

Since Iraq's occupation of Kuwait last August, there had been no telephone links with the emirate.

Prince Hassan pledges continued support for Palestinian cause

LONDON (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said here Tuesday night that Jordan would continue to extend support to the Palestinian people's quest to ensure their right to self-determination.

Addressing an annual dinner held by the London-based Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), Prince Hassan urged all non-governmental organisations and concerned institutions to exert efforts towards ensuring visits, to the Israeli-held Arab lands, by U.N. organisations and fact-finding missions in order to examine the conditions of the Palestinian people suffering under occupation.

Prince Hassan expressed concern over the Middle East situation and stressed the need "for trans-national efforts and commitments to peace through a con-



ference that would address issues in terms of politics where people matter."

The Crown Prince underlined the need for a peace conference as soon as possible, noting that 65 per cent of the total area of the occupied territories has now come under direct Israeli control at a time when Israeli expansionist policies were continuing unabated at the rate of 300 dunums a day.

Prince Hassan called for continued support for MAP which seeks to provide assistance to the repressed Palestinian people.

Present at the dinner, which was held at the "Grosvenor House" Hotel in London was Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath and Princess Sumayyah Al Hassan. Also present were Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, Jordan's ambassador to the United Kingdom, Minister of State Douglas Hogg and other officials as well as MAP's board members.

International women in Jordan help the needy

By Nar Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — One passerby commented one day that "Jordan is kind and generous. We help countries in need but I do not see us putting the same effort to help ourselves."

The passerby was not alone in thinking that. A Local Support Group, whose committee of eight, and around 45 members are made up of international women, decided, after continuous meetings of meetings during the Gulf war, to devote their time towards helping the needy in Jordan. Concerned over the plight of needy and desperate Jordanian families, who were innocent victims of the Gulf war, the group decided to "help in whatever way we could."

As Marie Atalla an Irish married to a Jordanian, pointed out, "we are not supported by any other societies, we are keeping it a small group of concerned ladies." What is being done, Marie Stieh, another Irish added, "is a drop in the ocean. But the fact that we are able to help some people makes us feel good."

Since February 1991, when the group began its welfare work, the women have helped 75 families through the Franciscan sisters who work in Maraka and Zarqa. The Local Support Group's report stated that "most of these families numbered between seven to ten children and parents. Twenty five of the families have as many as 18 members in one household." The report explains that the families are

without any form of income, "mostly because of illness or deformity of the father or both parents."

The group is able to donate staple food, tinned food, cash and clothing, according to Mrs. Stieh. In Beqaa camp around 25 families were helped. The group also donated to a family in Bayader Wadi Seer and to Abu Majeed, a bus driver.

The report said that Abu Majeed is a widower who supports 13 children, six of his own and seven of his brother's who is imprisoned in the West Bank. "He is the only one who works because his brother's wife and his old parents are in ill health," the report said.

"We have been able to help Abu Majeed's family by giving blankets and clothing, fresh fruits, vegetables," Mrs. Atalla said.

Mrs. Stieh said that there are very many areas and very many families in need of help. "People should realise that there is a problem at their doorstep."

The committee members agreed saying that more and more people were realising that now. Shortly after the Gulf war, according to Mrs. Atalla, the support given to the group dropped. "Now, that support is picking up again as people realise many citizens are in dire need."

One of the bigger projects is in Jiza, just outside Queen Alia International Airport. The group is exploring the possibility of embarking on a sanitation project for the camp of Ziziyah which houses some 7,500 displaced refugees from

the West Bank. The group is also trying to gather donations for the Ziziyah Girls School of 700 children. "They need pencils, books and story books," Mrs. Atalla said.

The committee members visited Ziziyah camp recently. "We saw a very crowded school and sanitation is badly needed. Although the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) is helping, there are still 22 needy families," Mrs. Stieh pointed out.

The committee has requested donations, in-kind, for staple food and clothing, but they also received a total amount of JD 571,250, the report stated.

"This enabled us to purchase basic foodstuffs such as rice, sugar, tea, lentils and cracked wheat," one member said. The group also obtained wool which was used to make blankets for children. "These were donated to the Franciscan sisters for their infant programme," the report said.

Weekly collections of tinned and staple food have been distributed to needy families through the Promise Welfare Society, the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund, for the people of Sadaqa Village, in the south, and the Islamic Women's Department at the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, according to Mrs. Atalla.

"Our next project now is to raise funds and push forward for a pressure group to keep the Jordanian people aware of how much poverty there is in the country," Mrs. Stieh said.

Higher Court of Justice rejects case against Interior Ministry

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Court of Justice has rejected a court case filed by Kifaya Nimr Issa against Interior Minister Salem Masadeh for denying her permission to enter the country.

The court's decision was taken at a court session, headed by Judge Zubeir Al Kayed and attended by judges Fahd Abu Al Eithn and Jamil Haddadin.

Ms. Kifaya's advocate had earlier contested the minister's decision saying that it was in violation of the law, and accusing him of abusing the authorities entrusted to him. She demanded that the case be recognised and discussed charging the minister all fees involved in this case, including the advocate's fees.

However the court, having listened to the statements and evi-

dence of both the claimant's advocate and the defendant's representative, decided to reject the court case and to declare that the claimant pay all fees and charges.

In his proceedings before the court, the assistant prosecutor general for administration, who represented the minister, said that the claimant was living outside Jordan, and that she had produced a Yemeni travel document upon arriving at Queen Alia International Airport from Syria.

He added that she was held at the airport until she could get a visa to enter Jordan. A petition was addressed, through her brother to the minister, requesting entry permission. Having examined the petition, it was found that she did not hold a Jordanian nationality and was not in possession of a Jordanian passport.

"We found out that she was in possession of a Yemeni travel document. Following consultation with the administrative authorities concerned, it was decided that her request for entry into Jordan be rejected," the official said. Whereas permission to enter the country is left to the administration to decide on, taking into account the country's public interest, such administrative authorities have the right to deny the entry permission if such denial was justified.

Since the petitioner failed to present any valid evidence, cited for contesting the validity of the court's decision, the contesting of the court's decision was in this case invalid, and the petition was consequently rejected.

JMA elects new president

AMMAN — The Jordan Medical Association (JMA) will Friday elect a new president; two candidates are running for the post: Hassan Khreis and Ishaq Maraga, and predictions indicate that up to 2,000 doctors will cast votes.

To date, 3,400 doctors and specialists have registered to vote in the election out of an original number of 9,000 JMA members.

Dr. Khreis, who is running for the post of presidency for the fifth time, represents the Democratic Alliance Bloc, while Dr. Ishaq Maraga, who represents the Islamic movement, is running for the post for the first time.

On the eve of the elections, Dr. Khreis said in a statement that the JMA board was faced with numerous problems, notably un-

employment among the doctors, and that poor health services were offered, an issue which should be tackled by the association.

Dr. Ishaq Maraga said he would try to keep JMA free from political parties' influences and pressures, and would deal with the adverse effects some doctors had sustained as a result of the application of rules imposed by the Jordan Medical Board.

The president would succeed Dr. Mamdouh Abbadi who had assumed the post for two consecutive terms, each lasting two years.

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Workshop stresses role of media in spreading awareness about environment

Seminar reviews environmental issues, demands pollution control

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP) opened a two-day workshop Wednesday to review matters related to the protection of the environment from pollution, and prominent participants presented working papers demanding stricter control over sources of pollution and giving details about the damage that could be caused to the environment and the public health.

Former Prime Minister, and society President Ahmad Obaidat, who delivered the opening address, said that the pollution problem had become one of the major problems of the modern age because it has direct impact on people's lives.

"The society was seeking to implement policies and apply regulations designed to protect Jordan's environment within the framework of a national strategy to fight pollution," Mr. Obaidat said.

He said that the society was embarking on a programme designed to spread awareness among members of the public about the need to protect the environment and would seek to exchange information and expertise with other specialised organisations in the world to achieve that goal.

This workshop is being held under the title of "the environ-

ment and the media" in order to underline the role which the media can play in spreading awareness about the public, Mr. Obaidat said.

The first lecture was delivered by Dr. Sufian Al Tal, a society member, who tackled changes affecting the world's climate and water resources and attributed the changes to man's various activities, including fire in forests and the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Dr. Tal referred to the pollution of the world's water resources and said that nearly 1.7 billion people in the world lacked drinking water. He also said that major cities of the world were facing mounting environmental problems in view of the growing population and the migration of people from rural to urban regions.

He said Jordan was facing the problem of desertification and drought, which, over the past few years, completely destroyed 80 per cent of the pasture lands and 60 per cent of the lands that depended on rain water.

Dr. Mohammad Sabbarini, from Yarmouk University, presented a working paper that tackled the relation between education and protecting the environment and referred to a 1972 international conference held in Sweden which emphasised the importance of scientific research

in safeguarding the environment.

Dr. Sabbarini's paper also referred to the series of Arab meetings dedicated to the protection of the environment, with the last one in Tunis in 1987 calling on Arab states to assign awards to the media for any distinguished work in the field of informing and helping spread awareness about the environment.

Dr. Elias Salameh, from the University of Jordan, submitted a paper on the water situation in Jordan.

Surface and underground water resources in Jordan face contamination largely as a result of unorthodox means of disposing of waste, said the paper. Dr. Salameh called for the employment of modern technology to deal with the problem of water pollution.

Another paper, from the University of Jordan, was presented by Dr. Anwar Al Battikhi who said that the total amount of rain water falling on Jordan annually did not exceed eight billion cubic metres, but most of this water was wasted and only 0.4 per cent of the underground water is used for drinking, irrigation and industry.

The researcher presented ideas by which the falling water could be trapped to suffice the country's needs which now stand at \$15 million cubic metres annually.

Society officials said more papers would be reviewed Thursday.

Registration for state awards starts

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture and Youth Khaled Karaki announced Wednesday that the door was open for candidates wishing to be nominated for the state meritorious and encouragement awards for the current year, after the conditions for the nominations to these awards underwent essential changes.

At a press conference held at Al Hussein Youth City Dr. Karaki said nominations for the awards would be as of this year, start during the Kingdom's celebrations of the Independence Day, marked on May 25, instead of the beginning of each year as it used to be.

Dr. Karaki reviewed the amendments to the regulations and instructions regarding the awards.

The amendments give the

Ministry of Culture the right to define a certain subject within the field of the award in order to facilitate the assessment process.

The encouragement awards, Dr. Karaki said, were reduced to four from seven.

According to the minister, the subjects of the meritorious awards will be: Sciences: agricultural sciences in Jordan; Literature: Literature in general, Social Sciences: studies in the Islamic Arab history, Arts: Plastic arts.

The subjects of the state encouragement awards will be: Literature: short story, Social sciences: economy and development in Jordan, Arts: traditional arts, Sciences: medical sciences.

Winners of the state meritorious awards will be given JD 10,000 while winners of the encourage-

ment awards will be given JD 5,000.

Candidates for the awards should be Jordanians. However, non-Jordanians who have worked on Jordan, or their work is of value to Jordan, can be nominated for the awards.

According to the awards regulations, the minister should form an assessing committee, specialised in each of the awards fields, to evaluate the works presented to it. The committee's final results will be submitted to the ministry at a time to be defined by the minister each year.

Dr. Karaki reviewed at the press conference the cultural situation in Jordan and the role of the Ministry of Culture in developing this field in a way that suits the democratisation process.

RJ denies going public

AMMAN (J.T.) — The national air carrier Royal Jordanian (RJ) Wednesday denied as groundless reports that the airline was holding contacts to reach a deal with Air France, or other foreign airlines, with the purpose of enlisting their participation in the airline's capital once it has been transformed into a public share holding company.

In 1988, RJ prepared a feasibility study, in cooperation with a major international firm, over the possibility of transforming the

national airline into a public share holding company an RJ statement said.

The statement said that the study had long been postponed in view of the political and economic events of the past year.

Denying the conclusion of any deal with any firm over the transformation process, the statement said that RJ had embarked on studies of new programmes for its operations, employing its modern fleet of aircraft.

The statement said that RJ was also studying proper means of erasing all adverse traces of the Gulf crisis on the national airline so that RJ would once again assume its former status among world airlines.

Al Rai' Arabic daily had earlier reported that RJ was in the process of being transformed into a public share-holding company, with the state holding 51 per cent of its shares.

Foreign Ministry admits to embezzlement case

AMMAN (J.T.) — The foreign Ministry Wednesday published a statement clarifying a case raised by the local daily Al Dussour about financial frauds at the Foreign Ministry, admitting there was tampering with official documents pertaining to per diems for officials assigned to work at the United Nations.

The ministry statement, which was also published by Al Dus-

tour, admitted that a ministry employee responsible for the act was already identified, but had secretly left the country soon after the discovery of the forgery.

According to the statement, the Foreign Ministry, together with the Ministry of Finance and the Audit Bureau, had set up a committee to investigate into the embezzlement and had submitted a joint report to the prosecutor

general.

The statement also noted that one of the ministry's messengers, Imad Zayed, had been considered by the committee as a witness for the prosecution, but that another man, named Jamil Atallah Abdul Hadi, whose name was mentioned in the paper's report as being involved, was not on the ministry's staff and his whereabouts were unknown.

LA REDOUTE

Our Summer catalogue for 1991 is back in town.



For information on getting your catalogue call 644938

GOETHE INSTITUTE AMMAN FOLLOW-UP MEETING

Goethe-Institute, Amman Club and GTZ cordially invite all graduates of German speaking universities and institutions for a reception on Monday 3rd of June at 7 p.m. in the garden of the Goethe-Institute.

Please accept this as an invitation!

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
جريدة يمنية عربية سياسية مستقلة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Direction without goal

ONE OF the early curses that have afflicted the Palestinian liberation movement is the constant bickering and interne-cine fighting among the various factions that make up the PLO. The just announced rapprochement between Syria and the PLO followed a string of meetings between rebel Palestinian groups and a high-powered delegation, headed by Farouk Kaddoumi, which had contributed to reconciliation and the healing of wounds within the Palestinian ranks. The rift between Damascus and the PLO has always been organically linked with deep divisions among the Palestinian factions and dates back to 1983 when Syria supported a rebellion against Chairman Yasser Arafat. The door leading to Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation was therefore opened by the reestablishment of harmony and coordination between the supporters and opponents of Chairman Arafat. That was exactly what happened when the two antagonist Palestinian groups healed their wounds between themselves during marathon meetings held in Damascus a few days ago. The decision to bury the hatchet, as it were, and forget the past, declared Tuesday, ushered in a new era not only in Syrian-Palestinian relations but also between the Palestinians themselves. "We can say a new era in our ties will exist," explained Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo at the conclusion Monday of the Damascus meeting between Syrian high ranking officials and their Palestinian counterparts. Mr. Abed Rabbo also ruled out any peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict without Syria. "There can be no conference without Syria and the PLO because they both have territories occupied by Israel," he declared.

So all looks fine and promising on both the Palestinian as well as on the Syrian-Palestinian level. Without such reconciliation, the Arab ranks would have continued to be beleaguered by internal strife that made Arab efforts to wage peace that much more drained out. Yet this newly found harmonisation and coordination between the Palestinians on the one hand and Syrians and Palestinians on the other cannot be lasting and profound unless the root causes of their differences have likewise been discussed and resolved. But one cannot take much comfort in Mr. Abed Rabbo's euphoric projection that the two sides in the Palestinian movement have "agreed to overlook the past," or to just simply "forget the past." Instead of artificial healing, the various factions within the organisation require a more genuine settlement of their long standing differences. It so happens that the disputes between the Palestinians were profound and fundamental. Instead of forgetting the past or overlooking old quarrels, it would be much better if a thorough examination of the sour points and issues was made and past differences were aired out in public. Otherwise, the positive declarations about the recent rapprochement would be short-lived as indeed had been the case in the past.

There is no doubt that the key Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict need to get their act together in preparation for the projected peace conference on the Middle East if it is ever held. The starting point should be at least the unity of purpose among the Palestinians themselves to be followed by a similar outlook by the rest of Arabs. There is also a need for such unity to be made solid and robust in order to withstand the stresses and strains of the challenges that lie ahead, whether or not progress is made towards peace. As much as we welcome the recent positive signals emanating from Damascus, we remain weary of the overall Arab front, which is not even lifting a finger to help either the Palestinian people under occupation or our Iraqi brethren in their hour of need. More than coordination on the names and composition of delegations that will attend a peace conference, the Arab World needs to devise formulae and take immediate steps to strengthen the steadfastness and alleviate the suffering of those Arabs who remain subject to foreign occupation and unjust economic sanctions. This is the priority as far as we can see.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Wednesday launched bitter attack on the Kuwaiti authorities for holding trials of non-Kuwaiti Arab nationals and said these trials could not be for those who collaborated with the Iraqi occupation forces but rather as a manifestation of malice and hatred against non-Kuwaitis. Were the courts to try anyone who collaborated with foreign forces, they ought to try Kuwaiti officials who continued to collaborate with the American and British forces and the armed forces and security men who fled the country and preferred to live in luxurious hotels rather than resist the Iraqi occupation rule, the paper noted. It is regrettable indeed to see those non-Kuwaiti Arab nationals facing so much suffering at the hands of Kuwaitis after having spent their whole lives building up Kuwait, and it is rather painful to see that only those who stood fast and remained in Kuwait during the occupation being rewarded with punishment, when Kuwaitis fled the country, the paper noted.

Al Dustour daily hailed the rapprochement between the PLO and the Syrian government as a positive development aimed at building up confidence and solidarity among Arab brothers. Jordan can only welcome such development and express support for any cohesion among the members of the Arab community, because such move can only open the door for a greater understanding and building of confidence among the other Arab states, the paper said. Indeed, such reconciliation would bring about a unified Arab stand with regard to the question of an international peace conference to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. The reconciliation is bound to remove a major obstacle in the path of a meeting among parties in direct confrontation with the Israeli enemy, and pave the ground for fruitful diplomatic efforts aimed at establishing peace, the paper continued.

The Gulf war and after: Perception versus reality

By Khalil Barhoum

The public history of all countries, and all ages, is but a sort of mask, richly coloured. The interior working of the machinery must be foul. John Quincy Adams (1882)

THE aftermath of America's military adventure in the Gulf has once again exposed an alarming consistency in U.S. foreign policy, characterised by a glaring contrast between policy, as publicly stated, and a rather concealed agenda. The perception, usually meticulously formulated and expounded by administration officials, often has very little to do with the reality of a given situation or the true U.S. objectives related to it. In recent years, this paradigm of perception versus reality has revealed itself to be the rule rather than the exception in the administration's policy, with the attendant consequence of depriving Americans of any solid interpretive framework with which to judge their administration's much-touted overseas exploits.

The U.S. and the Third World

A cursory look at U.S. military involvement in Third World nations over, say, the past 30 years reveals an unflinching pattern of colonialist intervention dressed up neatly in each particular case to fit the occasion. The Vietnam war was fought to thwart the "Communist threat" in South-east Asia and to save off the eventuality of Kissinger's so-called "domino effect" which, incidentally, never materialised. The very same pretext was later employed by the Reagan administration to justify occupying Grenada, although the primary evidence used to justify it (a huge airstrip built on the island for potential Soviet use) also turned out to be a gigantic exaggeration.

Also in the 1980s, the U.S. attack on Libya (which killed scores of innocent civilians) was justified by Libya's supposed involvement in terrorism. The evidence of its involvement "could not" be revealed at the time, and then significantly could not be corroborated later. Needless to say the bombing of Libya has had no impact on the incidence of terrorism.

The U.S. invasion of Panama at the outset of the Bush administration shares a great deal more with the attack on Iraq than with the previous two operations. In each instance the U.S. had cultivated a head

of state who outlasted his usefulness to American interests and had to be militarily confronted. In the case of the U.S. military intervention in the Gulf the overriding concern elucidated by administration officials was to stultify the hegemonic ambitions of Saddam Hussein, never mind the fact that the U.S. stood idly by for eight years, while Iraq and Iran mercilessly fought each other nearly to a standstill.

The perception provided during the Gulf crisis was that a new Third Reich was on the march, with Saddam the Hitler of the '90s. This makes a crude caricature of the reality that Iraq is a Third World nation of 18 million people, dependent largely on one export for its relative prosperity and reliant on foreign imports for its basic requirements.

To justify its most recent military involvement, the Bush administration trumpeted *inter alia* the coining "new world order" and then proceeded to explain that this order is predicated primarily upon three principles: respect for national boundaries and the rule of law; deference to international legitimacy and its main legislative body, the U.N.; and cooperation between the superpowers. No such respect for national boundaries was exhibited by the U.S. throughout its previous foreign invasions and military interventions, nor was the international will adhered to with respect to countless U.N. resolutions dealing with the U.S. and its allies' numerous violations of international law — the World Court's verdict against the U.S. for its mining of Nicaragua's harbours, and the Reagan and Bush administrations' use of the veto 22 times in the Security Council to protect Israel's continued occupation of Arab land in flagrant defiance of international law, for example.

Implications of the "new world order"

Perceptions aside, what then does the "new world order," as exemplified by the recent military action in the Gulf, mean for the rest of the world, especially Third World nations, and the Arab World in particular? Now that the USSR has effectively resigned as a superpower, and until other viable alternative centres of power, such as a politically independent, united Europe, finally evolve, the world will witness a return to John Foster Dulles' days of "if you are not with us, then you are against us." In view of the present unipolar realities, Third World countries therefore cannot seek

Soviet help against U.S. power, nor play one superpower off against the other.

For some time to come, the "new world order" implies that the Arab World will continue to suffer from a status quo guaranteed by the West, replete with socio-economic disparities and teeming with violations of human rights. It leaves the Arabs more humiliated, frustrated and angered than ever. It has also effectively put an end, for the foreseeable future at least, to Arab dreams focused on questioning colonial demarcations of geopolitical boundaries across the Arab World and, in the process, questioning the legitimacy of Israel as a colonialist

competition to the U.S. economy.

The toll of the war

Now that popular euphoria in the U.S. over the speedy outcome of what seemed to be a very sanitary military engagement in the Gulf has been replaced with a more sober and analytical view of the war, the toll in human, ecological and economic terms has just begun to crystallise. The absurdity of the antiseptic media coverage of a savage reality has finally exploded into living-room pictures of untold human suffering which very few in the U.S. deemed probable only months ago. Despite the misery that the war has inflicted on the

Jordan and Egypt, these frustrations have found partial expression in the Islamic revivalist movements that have sprung up over the past few years. In part, to check the growing influence of these and other potentially threatening currents in the aftermath of the war, the region has begun to witness the rise of a new Arab axis based on a loose coalition among Egypt and Syria (which provide the demographic depth and military strength) on the one hand, and the Gulf states (which are capable of furnishing considerable rewards of financial assistance) on the other. The alliance among these nations simply represents an extension of the coalition that evolved during the Gulf crisis against Iraq.

But attempts to neutralise Arab frustration and anger will not be successful in the long run for several reasons. Sooner or later the Arab regimes, irrespective of their political stripes and orientation, must deal with the issue of democratisation at home. The Arab countries who allied themselves with the West against Iraq will be hard pressed to re-establish their Arab credentials. More to the point, the masses will be severely scrutinising, almost unforgiving, of these regimes, if it turns out that after the elimination of Iraq from the Arab-Israeli military equation, the West still has no idea how to fashion a just and lasting solution to the Palestine problem. To many Arabs, by achieving a degree of military parity that would have included unconventional weapons, Iraq's military might have offered the most realistic chance of acting as a deterrent against Israel's hegemony.

Israel emboldened

Contrary to rationalisations by Western optimists during the crisis that Israel would be more amenable to peace following the removal of Iraq's potential military threat, it is obvious now that the stunning outcome of the war has only emboldened Israel's hard-liners. Not surprisingly, the government has announced plans to build 14,000 new housing units in the occupied territories, in clear defiance of pledges to the contrary. In addition to its continuing insistence on excluding the PLO from any future negotiations, Israel has added to its ever-growing list of demands that Arab states must also sign peace treaties with it prior to any meaningful discussion of the Palestine problem. Israel seeks thus to derail the attempt to

terminate its illegal occupation of Arab land and its daily brutalisation of the Palestinian people almost indefinitely.

The American response has been quite predictable. Aligned to be patient because, unlike Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and U.N. Security Council resolutions dealing with that situation, Israel's occupation of Arab lands and the many resolutions, calling for an end to it ought to be viewed and dealt with in the different context. Consequently, in the eyes of most in the Arab World, the double standards, hypocrisy and inconsistency that have long characterised American foreign policy in the Middle East continue.

What seems to the ardent observer as a somewhat glaring inconsistency in America's policy in the region is merely a matter of perception. The appalling reality remains that the policy is remarkably consistent, premeditated and shockingly predictable. Placed in its proper historical and global context, the U.S. policy in the Arab World is perfectly in step with a long established tradition, pursued and carried out throughout history by colonialist powers. No wonder, that the most consistent supporters of the U.S. against Iraq were nations (Britain and France, most notably) who only recently have lost most of their own colonies.

Despite the administration's stunning success in manufacturing an initial perception of the war that had very little to do with reality, what looked after the war's end like an unqualified American victory in the Gulf has already turned into a quagmire. Certainly, it is becoming more evident every day that although the U.S. has a military plan for the emancipation of Iraq, in fact it has little or no political vision of what followed. The clouds shielding perceptions of this episode are steadily clearing away, and, as usual, soon there will be nothing left underneath except the tragic reality of another war that did not have to be fought. In the words of orientalist Jacques Berque: "We still have not understood that colonial wars have a particular nature: to win them is worse than to lose them. And the more overwhelming the victory, the worse it is."

Khalil Barhoum is senior lecturer in Department of Linguistics at Stanford University, California. The article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

U.S. experts stress need for arms control in Middle East

By Berta Gomez
USIA

WASHINGTON — Given that the potential for conflict in the Middle East remain high, the United States ought to persist in its efforts to stem the spread of arms in the region, a panel of experts told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee May 23.

"The Middle East will remain a very dangerous neighbourhood, but one we cannot walk away from," said Geoffrey Kemp of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "Virtually anything that happens there is going to concern us," he said during the hearing, which focused on the prospects for arms control in the region.

The other witnesses were Barry Blechman, president of Defence Forecast, Inc.; Brad Gordon, an assistant director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency; Anthony Cordesman, an aide to Senator John McCain (Republican-New Mexico); and Dov Zakheim of SPC International Corporation.

Gordon told the committee that the "central question" now is finding the right balance between providing for the defence of America's allies, and stimulating arms control in the region.

He also disputed the belief that the Israeli-Palestinian dispute is the major remaining obstacle to comprehensive arms control and peace in the region.

"Solving the Arab-Israeli dispute is not the be-all and end-all of Middle Eastern regional security issues," Gordon declared. Even if that issue were settled there are "any number of intra-Arab disputes," as well as the question of Arab-Iranian relations left to sort through, he argued.

Despite those complications, he stressed that the Middle East "cries out" for some kind of arms control.

For his part, Kemp stressed the

importance for Washington of maintaining some distance from the arms control process, saying that "we must not try to impose an arms control ideology on the Third World." Rather, the emphasis should be on encouraging Middle Eastern countries to talk to one another about the relevant issues.

He suggested that for the United States, restrictions on arms sales should probably depend more on the nature of the recipient regime, than on the character of the weapons systems being

sold. It is not inherently dangerous, Kemp said, for reliable allies to have access to sophisticated U.S. technology.

Regarding the nuclear issue, Kemp said the United States should not call upon Israel to give up its nuclear deterrent, but should work to put ceilings on the Israeli nuclear programme. "The reality is no Israeli government will contemplate giving up nuclear weapons probably until there has been a generation of peace in the region," he said.

Moreover, Kemp said it would

be "counterproductive" to pressure Israel on the nuclear issue "at the same time we want Israel to be more flexible on giving up land" in exchange for peace with its Arab neighbours.

Cordesman was even stronger in his defence of the Israeli nuclear programme, calling it "the only way to deal with threats like Syria's chemical weapons capability."

In other respects, Cordesman gave a grim assessment of the extent of weapons proliferation in the region. "The situation in terms of arms transfers is already much worse than it was in 1989 or (early) 1990," he said.

Specific points of concern include reports that two-thirds of Iraq's military has remained intact, efforts on the part of Syria to obtain accurate, long-range ballistic missiles, and indications that Algeria is building a nuclear reactor, according to Cordesman.

Asked by Committee Chairman Terry Sanford (Democrat-North Carolina) to predict what kind of role the United Nations might play in controlling arms proliferation in the region, the panelists generally agreed that the U.N. ought to begin by repairing its relations with Israel.

Dov Zakheim noted that the U.N. General Assembly "has yet to rescind" a resolution in which it equated Zionism with racism, and suggested that "until something is done about that resolution, the U.N. is a non-starter in the region."

Barry Blechman agreed that the resolution "is obnoxious, and clearly should be rescinded as soon as possible," but suggested that the United Nations has by its recent actions acquired a new stature in the region. "We've seen an extraordinary renaissance in the U.N.," he said, adding that there would be "lots of advantages to involving it in the Middle East."

"Ultimately," said Kemp, "I think the U.N. does have a role to



LETTERS

American humanity

To the Editor:

I AM one of many people who have families in Iraq. I have recently received a letter from my mother, part of which, I believe, is worth reading by the public, because it reflects some of what the majority of the Iraqis are suffering. I quote: "... no, I do not wish to go to England, I will never step a foot into it. I really hate the British and I do not want to have anything to do with them anymore. As to the U.S.A., believe me, if I am asked to choose between going to the U.S.A. or hell, I will choose hell! I hate the Americans. I despise them. They are shown for what they really are: a people with no principles. They claim that they believe in humanity! They did not do anything to justify that! In fact they did everything to prove the opposite; they cut water and electricity supplies, they cut food and medicine, they bombed bridges, they bombed sewage systems, people are dying as a result of the spreading diseases and hunger. What sort of humanity is Bush talking about! He is doing all this to show how great America is, or is it because of the bribes he received. They are all Mafia, God damn them forever. I hope that God will make them pay for what they did."

I shivered when I read her letter. To plant so much hatred into people's hearts is a crime by itself. I do not think that the Iraqis will be able to forget all the injustices carried out against them for many years to come, thanks to Bush and the one word he uttered! Keep up the good work, Mr. Bush! Keep the sanctions, so that Iraq will never be able to stand on its own two feet once again. Let the Iraqis suffer... Long live American humanity.

R. Saleem

Weekender

May 30, 1991 A

Published Every Thursday

Iraqi poet comes in from the cold

AMMAN (Petra) — A renowned Iraqi poet, who has spent over half his life in exile, has finally made up his mind to go back and spend the remaining part of his life in his country.

Abdul Wahab Al Bayyati, one of the prominent and progressive Iraqi poets, was tortured, persecuted and fired from his job as a teacher in 1954 because of his political stands and opinions, which he apparently reflected in his poems.

Having been discharged from his job, he left for Beirut, and then for Egypt

and Syria, and later left for the Soviet Union and Spain. Among his famous poetry books, were *Angels And Devils*, *Poems In Exile*, *Words That Will Never Die*, *Revenge And Words*.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Bayyati described his sufferings and ills as a result of life in exile, as "a bleeding wound." He noted that his travel was not for fun or for touristic purposes but was in search of something missing.

Bayyati thinks today's Arab poetry has taken the form of the current Arab

situation which is characterised by divisions. "The poetry we are reading and hearing nowadays lacks awareness of the history, philosophy and objective rules of life."

Bayyati said: "It is painful that many poets write political poetry at a time when they do not have any political awareness or even know the objective laws of life."

On the future of the Arab Nation, Bayyati said he was rationally optimistic adding: "what we are seeing now is the end of the age of small men and mercenary writers."

"I think we are now pas-

sing through the stage of child labour and fake pregnancy, but soon, we will reach the genuine stage," he said.

He said the current laws in the Arab World are not clearly defined in view of the many provinces, countries which follow different paths.

On the situation of poetry in Iraq now, Bayyati said: "As long as fire is burning and as long as rivers are running poetry will remain the hope, be it in Iraq or elsewhere in the Arab World. Poetry is not the mere writing of words or letters or

books, but the reflection of man's ability to challenge wretchedness and destruction. The nation that can give birth to giant poets and produce genuine poetry can overcome its ordeals and wake up from the ashes of death."

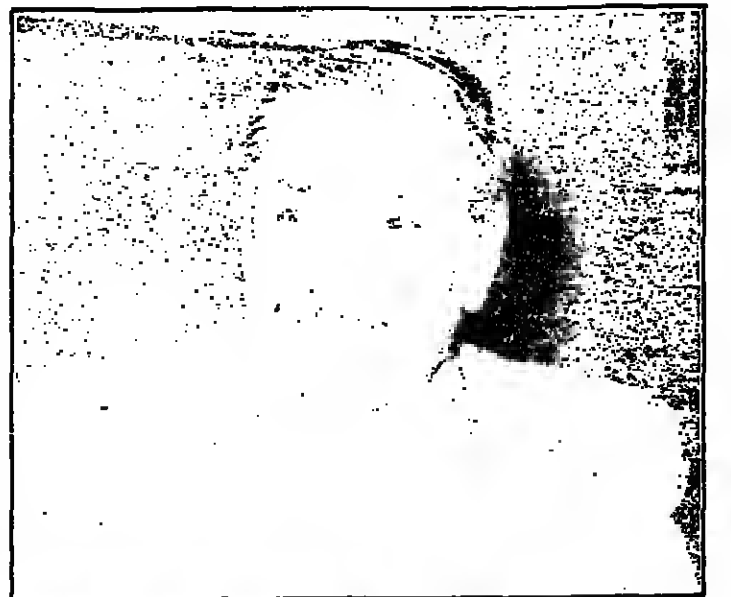
Asked about the role of Arab poets in supporting the Palestinian uprising, Bayyati said the uprising takes more precedence over poetry. Adding: "the nation as a whole, rather than the individual, is the maker of revolutions or poetry."

"The poem is not the gol-

den egg of the poet, but is the outcome of the suffering and torture of a whole nation," he said.

Bayyati noted that some of the poetry works have contributed to escalating the uprising.

On his latest works, Bayyati said he had written a book, entitled *Elegies*, which is being printed now. "Another book of poetry which I wrote some time ago, is called *Love, Death and Exile*. This book includes more than 30 poems, which have been translated into English and published in Washington."



Iraqi Poet Abdul Wahab Al Bayyati

Lat for breakfast — A Malaysian tradition that is catching

By Heidi Munan

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysians are a practical people. They regularly greet each other with "have you eaten?" In recent years, though, another greeting has become popular. In the elevators and stairwells of Kuala Lumpur's office buildings, at formal tables in the company cafeterias and across the executive's desk the opening query, "Have you seen Lat?" evokes a burst of shared laughter.

Lat is a cartoonist who has become a national institution. Three mornings a week the Lat cartoon is standard breakfast fare in thousands of households. It provokes smiles, loud guffaws or an approving, occasionally exasperated, shake of the head.

"Look at Lat — how could he?" This is the usual reaction to cartoons of sea turtles invading a maternity ward, an orangutan answering the Minister of Tourism's phone, a hobby fisherman practising fly casting inside his mosquito net, a portly, mop-haired character being refused permission to enter the annual Lat Cartoon Colouring Contest.

The mop-haired character is Lat himself. Or rather it's Mohammad Nor bin Khalid, whose childhood nickname "Bulat" (fatty), abbreviated to Lat, has survived into his fourth decade. He started drawing at an early age. "Scribbling, they called it, and believe it or not, I was never good at art in school," he laughs.

The school in question lies in a rural "kampung" (village) in the tin-mining state of Perak. Lat's father was a civil servant, a kind, pious familyman, not overly rich. He had mixed feelings about art as a profession for any of his five children, but he sacrificed the occasional dollar for good drawing paper for young Lat.

By now, all of Malaysia and other parts of Asia know Encik Khalid from his son's cartoons. They also know Granny, who was the village midwife, Mama and the aunts, the village kids and all their escapades. Lat has immortalized them in *The Kampung Boy* and other books, poking gentle fun at the people he loves best: Papa doing a Tarzan imitation on the branch of a riverside tree, Mama's robust educational methods, "granny" and her ubiquitous betel nut tray, the village boy's first love, for a girl already betrothed. Strict teachers, suspicious shopkeepers, self-important mosque officials, members of the "establishment," all are skewered on the sharp point of Lat's nib.

"Yes, I draw with a nib," the thriving artist admits. "I can use a draughtsman's pen or a felt-tip, but for the right kind of feel I need a nib. Like the ones we used in school. I did my first commercial cartoons with a nib."

Lat had his first commercial success when, at age 12, he arranged to swap cartoons

for movie tickets with a Singapore film magazine. The tickets, addressed to "Mr. and Mrs. Lat," impressed the boy no end, but it was impossible to take a date to a movie house in the mid-1950s. So he took his father, an avid admirer of Malay films who enjoyed his son's success as much as the boy did.

A year later Lat sent the manuscript of a book of cartoons to a Penang publisher and was paid the enormous sum of \$25 for the work. "You can laugh," says the artist, "but \$25 was a lot money to a schoolboy in 1963. I thought I'd really made it. There is a feeling nothing can describe when you see your own work in print for the first time and all the fellows at school know about it." Lat dutifully handed part of earnings to his mother and promptly blew the rest on movie tickets, treats for his friends and just going on a spree.

School ended when Lat turned 18, after a less than brilliant performance on the Senior Cambridge exam. Lat, like thousands of others, came to town to look for work. The country boy soon landed a job as a regular cartoonist with the leading Malay-language weekly *Berita Minggu*. He was also hired as a writer by the *New Straits Times*, working the nighttime crime beat. Lat recalls that period with mixed feelings. He learned a lot, he admits: "Burning and midnight visits to the morgue are well, educational," but I hated having to interview the families of victims, all crying and upset, and you're supposed to ask them for a photo



Mohammad Nor Bin Khalid, better known as 'Lat', has become South East Asia's most popular cartoonist.

and all sorts of personal questions.

At the same time, Lat had his regular cartoon feature and he began to send his work to magazines in the region. In 1974 *Asia Magazine* commissioned him to do drawings for a series on the Muslim ritual of circumcision. He handled the sensitive topic with wit and sym-

pathy. The editor of the *New Straits Times*, Malaysia's leading daily, was prepared to offer this promising new cartoonist a job, only to discover that he was already on the payroll as a crime reporter.

The newspaper's top brass were somewhat taken aback to find that they had just

hired a totally self-taught artist. Lat was sent off for formal study in Britain, where, he says, he also learned a great deal outside the classroom. He stayed at an art school for about six weeks and decided that he'd had enough. Reading the daily papers, marveling at what English cartoonists could get away with — "They make fun of the queen and the royal family and any politicians they like!" — was at least as instructive as the art classes. A trip to Europe was the next logical step, and so the cartoonist crossed the channel.

Though Lat has since returned to Europe as guest of honour at various high-society gatherings, his first trip made a deep impression. He wandered around looking at people and things. He scanned the daily newspapers in the various languages for cartoons. He roamed the art galleries, reveling in culture in a way I'd never thought I would. I wasn't really into classics before. I guess I'm not now, either. But I looked at the things those Dutch masters did with light and shade, with colour. When I'm there I'm really interested in culture. Not just painting, drama and dance, too. It's just at home I'm such a square."

Immediately after his return from Europe Lat wasn't a "square" at all. He found that he was famous, and for a while he loved the publicity and the invitations to meet the rich and famous of the day. Though by nature a laid-back, casual type, he dressed with great care to live up to his "successful" image.

That was phase one. Phase two set in a few years later. "I

got fed up," he says simply. "People pestered me. I couldn't go where I liked. In this country a popular hero shouldn't be seen sitting in a bar. I longed for the day when people would ignore me, and I was getting sick of elegant clothes and sleek hairstyles."

Maybe it was the sartorial effects that drew the crowds. Nowadays, when Lat walks by in T-shirt and slacks, with his unruly thatch of hair, no heads turn. There is no doubt that people recognise him, but they simply smile and walk on. Only the occasional gaggle of schoolgirls comes rushing up for autographs. "People leave me in peace now," says a contented Lat. "They've got other idols to run after — pop stars who court publicity and are unhappy if they don't get it. Me, I like it this way. Yes, I am often asked to contribute for charities, to judge art contests, that sort of thing. I don't mind — up to a point. But I can say no."

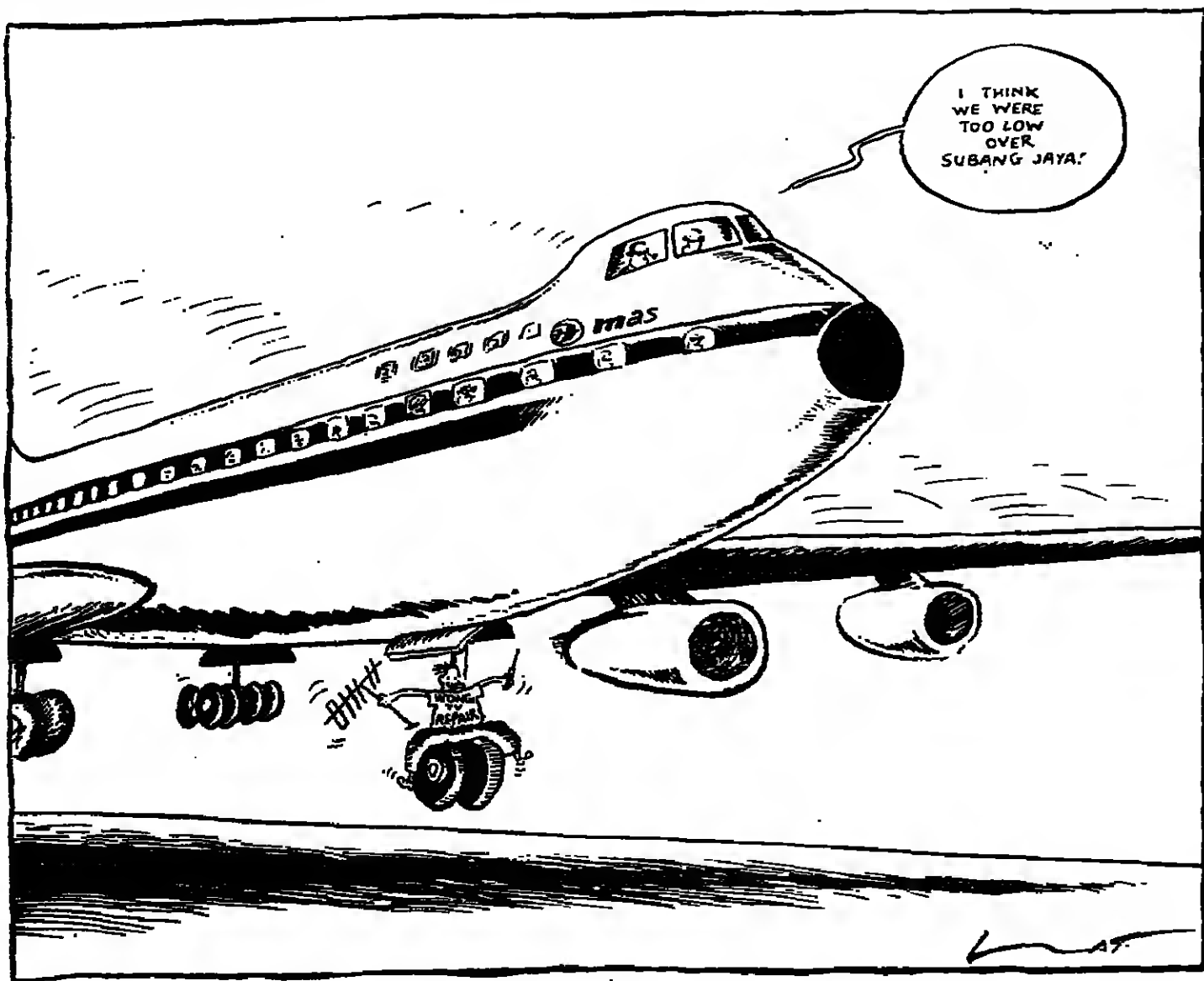
Lat has attained the status of roving ambassador, being invited to grace "unlikely events, international conferences of all the wise and learned — maybe they need a joker to balance things out." But wherever he lands, Lat always seeks out the local cartoonists. They exchange news and views, joke with each other in speech or, if there is a language barrier, in — naturally — cartoons.

As his contribution to *Visit Malaysia Year*, Lat invited a dozen cartoonists from around the world. The language barrier was demolished with pad and nib. Frenchman Jean Plantureux and American Nina Paley communicated without a word. Kosei Ono from Japan and Ying Tao from China shared some Chinese characters that are common to both languages, but they spoke more often through their cartoons.

"I wanted to return hospitality, for one thing," says Lat, "and I was curious what my friends from overseas would see in Malaysia." They saw plenty. And they had been briefed about what's on in Malaysia and what's not. Religion is "not on." The rulers and leading politicians are also "not on," though Lat risks the occasional gentle dig himself.

"In some ways I'm a cheeky fellow," the cartoonist admits. "But most of the time I stay away from politics. I draw my inspiration from friends, from people I know, from familiar situations. My cartoons are aimed at a Malaysian audience, at people who know local customs and foibles. I don't think of an international audience — not yet."

But there is time. The moon-faced father of two is only 40. The Malaysian public adores him. His fame is secure throughout South East Asia, wherever durian and chillies are enjoyed. And Lat with breakfast, which began in 1974, will continue to entertain and delight millions — World News Link.



book reviews

Admirably dutiful

Jerusalem's Other Voice: Ragheb Nashashibi and moderation in Palestinian politics 1920-1948
By Nasreddin Nashashibi
Ithaca Press, Exeter, U.K. 1990 £29.95

IT was the notable families of Palestine who bore the brunt of decision-making in the country for a period of 30 years between the end of World War I and the catastrophe of 1948. In the context of Palestine's triangle — the British, the Arabs, and the Jews — the burden of leadership fell on Palestine's elite. It was a time when it was hard to see what lay ahead and what was for the best. There was no end in sight to the Mandate, and if the problem of the Jews was to be contained the British needed to be conciliated. Seething indignation at the British promise to the Jews of a "national home" was tempered by the realisation on the part of some Palestinians that the Jews, with the British behind them, were not easily to be ousted. Others, on the other hand, could not see why the Arabs, free from the Turkish yoke, should not have Palestine for themselves, as it had ancestrally been.

In this context, the ancient contest between the great families became a struggle for the leadership between Palestinian factions, characterised by their different attitudes over how to deal with the British Mandatory power and how to cope with the growing Jewish numbers and their systematic acquisition of land. On the one side stood the Husseins, who were — at least broadly and much of the time — for opposition to the Jews and non-cooperation with the British. The Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin Al Hussein, was effectively the leader of the Hussein faction.

It is the thesis of this book by Ragheb's nephew and admirer Nasreddin Nashashibi that Ragheb Nashashibi was, in the title of this book, Jerusalem's Other Voice, the voice of "moderation." The author sets out his aim thus: "This book is an attempt to redress that balance, to remind students of Palestine's contemporary history that there were many eminent Palestinian Arabs who wholeheartedly endorsed Ragheb Nashashibi's policy of moderation." And the other side of coin was that Haj Amin's inflexible stand captured the attention of observers of the Palestinian scene, convincing them of "the extremist nature of Palestinian Arab resistance."

author of this book can hardly be expected to present a critical examination of his policies as Mayor of Jerusalem from 1920 to 1934 and afterwards. But the wisdom and moderation ascribed here to the elder Nashashibi have been viewed by many as appeasement and trimming. In the last analysis neither Ragheb's moderation nor the Mufti's extremism served Palestine particularly well, and it may be harsh to condemn one more than the other. Nevertheless, it would take a more sweeping and convincing reappraisal of history than Nasreddin Nashashibi has achieved to re-establish his uncle's credentials as a Palestinian statesman.

In the event, Ragheb Nashashibi is more unfavourably remembered for the latter part of his career. He did not cover himself with glory during the Palestinian Revolt from 1936 to 1939.

Nasreddin Nashashibi's book contains much in the way of anecdote and reminiscence which will be valuable to students of Palestinian history, and it is admirably dutiful. Certainly the fact that there was an alternative Palestinian voice should not be forgotten — Middle East International.

By John King

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the soul
— Joseph Addison, English statesman-writer (1672-1719).

The time to stop a revolution is at the beginning, not the end
— Adlai Stevenson, U.S. statesman-politician (1900-1965).

Debt is a bottomless sea
— Thomas Carlyle, Scottish essayist-historian (1795-1881).

Opinions cannot survive if one has no chance to fight for them
— Thomas Mann, German writer (1875-1955).

Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers
— Lord Alfred Tennyson, English poet (1809-1892).

The graduation spirit

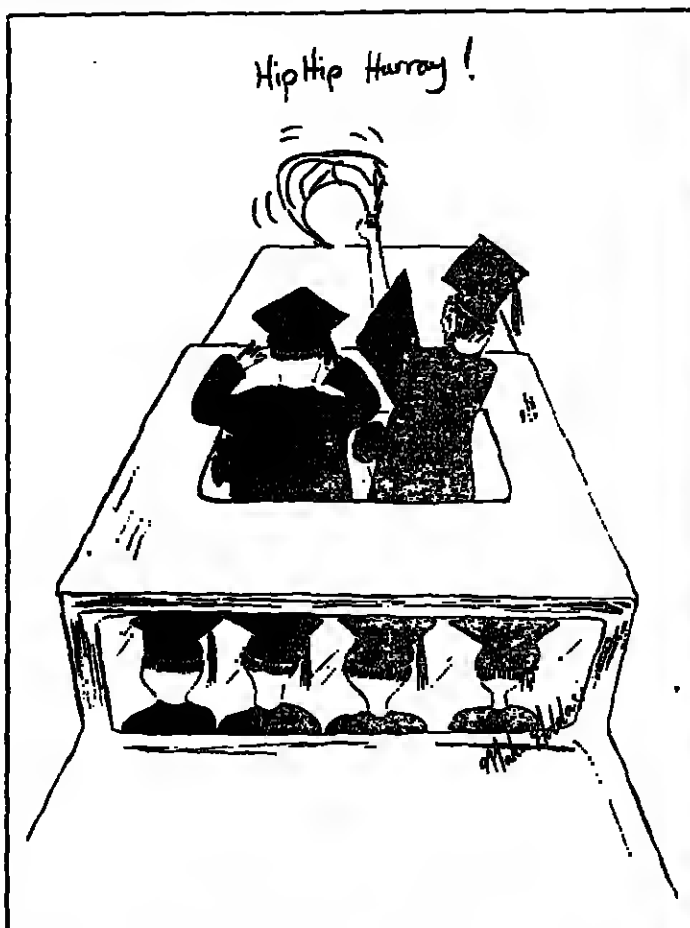
By Maha Addasi

JUST when you thought it was safe to walk down the streets without risking being run over by a batch of high-school students celebrating, a new wave of them emerges, because surprise, surprise another academic year is fast approaching its end and Tawjihi, I.B., and GCE students are out there on the loose driving their cars around for hours on end. But what are these students celebrating? Did they get their grades yet? Or have they taken the exams at all? Maybe they are taking this as the last opportunity to have fun before they do receive the dreaded grades.

This means of celebrating is just typical of these would-be Freshmen. They celebrate by driving. Tell these same people that they are to go on a school-related field trip an hour away from school and you could watch them as they pull faces and grumble until the trip is completely over when they would comment that they had not learned a single thing from this educational trip. These are the very same people who, given all the options of rejoicing on Earth, when asked what they want to do that is "special" and uniquely commemorates the graduation spirit they would say, "oh, we want to drive around town for a 'couple' of hours." They say it so matter-of-factly that they make you feel that you have the IQ equal to their shoe-size when you ask such a silly question. "Of course they want to drive!"

And drive they do, hocking roads and crossing traffic lights while they are still red so that they "don't lose the rest of the fleet of friends." What's more, these students are usually wearing their graduation capes as they swing handkerchiefs from the car sunroofs. They do not mind wearing capes while they sit in the crowded car like, not even sardines, but tuna fish. None of them complain of the heat, the way they would to their parents for suggesting they wear a jacket because it is chilly outside. And of course they sing throughout the entire "ride." They sing these songs which they have learned from tapes so thoroughly and so well that I suggest that the school curricula should be placed on cassette tapes so that students could memorise their studies as accurately.

Meanwhile, sitting at home waiting for these students are their family members who are worrying their hearts out



over their kids as they sit along with guests who have come to congratulate the student for, umm... for not having taken his or her exams yet. I guess. I don't know? Anyway, the guests just sit their waiting and of course leave before the student shows up. Guess, just one word of advice. You do not absolutely have to visit the student immediately after the happy graduation party. Wait a little and visit when the student really needs your presence, like for moral support. Like right after his or her exams are over!

Happiness

By Ulla Khreis

"WE USED to live in Germany. We were a small happy family, my husband, myself and our son. During my second pregnancy something went wrong. The baby died and I could not have any more children. But that did not seem to matter then."

She was seeking contact with those happy days in Germany and because she had mistaken me for a German lady, she had started to speak to me in broken German which sometimes made it hard for me to understand what she was saying. She spoke in a low, tense voice and I could feel all the sorrow that laid behind the calmly spoken words.

All around us the women were shouting and crying, cursing men and their demands for many children. Some were banging their heads with their hands, some tearing their clothes, some were laying seemingly lifeless after having been silenced by an injection. And through it all you heard verses from the Holy Koran.

She continued her story but now in Arabic:

"When the time came for our son to begin school we decided to go back to Jordan so that he could have a proper Arabic and Islamic education. At first everything was quite alright. But then my husband's family started to urge him to have many children. In the beginning my husband waved away their concern with a laugh but gradually it started to affect him. Quite soon I saw the changes in his attitude towards me and our son. He became irritated, nothing seemed to please him. He even shouted at his son whom he loved so much.

"One day women of his family came to talk to me. They tried to give the impression that it was a usual social visit.

"But with a sudden shiver I knew that they had come for a special reason. After talking about recent events in the family they came to the point.

"If I loved my husband and knew my duties as a wife and wished him to be happy how could I stand in his way when he wanted to achieve happiness by marrying another woman and having more children? They argued.

"Of course I loved my husband and of course I would not stand in his way. But did I have a choice? The alternative would be divorce and the risk of losing my son. So I would make him happy and share him with his new wife. Then he had at least the same responsibilities towards both of us.

"My personal feelings I had to hide and try to get rid of. "But when I heard the singing and dancing accompanying the arrival of the new bride, it was as if someone was tearing my heart out of my breast. My husband was celebrating his wedding with another woman and I and my son were sitting in the apartment next door, hearing all the joyful cries. Could there be anything more terrible to experience?"

"In due time my fellow-wife was with child and our husband was shining with pride. He was very nice to me but in an impersonal and superior way."

She stopped talking. The women in the kitchen had finished. They had prepared the deceased for her last journey. In a simple open coffin she was carried out of her father's house. Less than a year ago she had also left her father's house, but then as a happy bride in white.

She had given birth to a son who died after a couple of days. She, the mother died a week after her son.

The shouting and crying of the women arose to a crescendo that could have pulled down the whole house. I felt as if I was swept away and pulled down by wild and evil whirlpools.

She who told me her story, I have never seen since. But less than a month after this upsetting event her husband was on his way to happiness with yet another wife. If he has found happiness? Only God knows.

Dutch masters bring better days back to Romanian museum

By Roxana Dascalu

Reuter

BUCHAREST — "It has taken five hundred years and a revolution to tell a Van Eyck from a Durer," said curator Codruta Cruceanu, pointing at a pocket-sized canvas.

The painting is one of four pulling crowds this month to Romania's National Art Museum, in the central Bucharest square where Eastern Europe's bloodiest revolution erupted in December 1989. Romania's art collection was one of the major casualties.

For the first time in 16 months, crowds, who regularly make Revolution square a rallying point for anti-government protests are giving way to art lovers.

The rush is to see four precious paintings by Dutch masters, returned to pride of place in the museum collection from Amsterdam, where Dutch restorers have given

them a new lease of life.

The paintings, like the museum itself, were damaged by bullets, shells, fire and smoke during violent clashes between revolutionaries backed by the army, and loyalists — later dubbed "terrorists" — to Romania's ousted and executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

For the curators, terror it was.

For several days the army fired heavy artillery to rout Ceausescu's elite marksmen. They had penetrated the museum building, a former royal palace where Ceausescu himself often held ceremonies, via secret underground corridors linking it to the Communist Party headquarters across the square.

Cruceanu recalled those dramatic days. Museum staff braved the fire to save the art collections. Paintings were ripped by bullets and threatened by flames.

"We had to dodge bullets flying from all directions to rush the art collections to a

safe place. There was only a handful of soldiers to protect us from the terrorists."

The Dutch were among the first to reply to the distress call that National Art Museum director Theodor Enescu addressed to the world immediately after the revolution. After a painstaking, year-long restoration, experts at Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum have worked wonders on the four paintings.

"We thought this painting was lost after it was pierced by shrapnel. Look at it now!" Cruceanu said, pointing to one of the restored works on display in the museum's Hall of Honour.

The canvas, by a Dutch renaissance painter, master of the Augsburg Ecco Homo, features Christ carrying the cross.

It was a small oil canvas, slightly larger in size than a handkerchief, which provided the biggest surprise for both the Dutch restorers and the Bucharest museum.

In order to date the painting more accurately, the wood panel was submitted to an elaborate X-ray examination. The Rijksmuseum said analysis showed it was painted on a panel from an oak tree felled shortly after 1400.

The experts traced the provenance of the canvas, "Portrait of a Man With a Ring" featuring a melancholy young man with blue headgear, to early 15th century Dutch master Jan Van Eyck.

"Before it went to the Netherlands ... it was believed to be a 1492 work by Albrecht Durer," Cruceanu said.

"Now we can say that we have lost a false Durer and got back a genuine Van Eyck, which is not a bad deal in the art world," she said with a smile.

The four restored paintings by Dutch masters, which also include a large but little-known Rembrandt, are on show at the museum.

Basam the teacher

By E. Yaghi

School was almost over. It was a bright and early morning, somewhere in the heart of Amman. Basam, a teacher in his forties, headed for the junior high school in which he taught. On his way, birds perched on leafy trees, singing and scolding each other. Pink and red roses were in full bloom and a mint and jasmine scent saturated the atmosphere. But Basam only grunted, Bah, another day of school. I hate kids! Don't know why I picked this job anyway. The headmaster tells us we're supposed to have a chummy relationship with our students. How ludicrous! Besides, the whole school is against me. The students, teachers and the principal are trying to evict me. They think I don't know about the petition that they're passing around, signing it behind my back so they can kick me out of school, but I'll show them. I'll keep hitting students until my last day! His expression defiant, he steered his burly body forward in a self-assured manner.

He entered the school. His beady eyes darted in several directions searching for his first victim of the day. Boys of all sizes rushed through the corridors on their way to their classes. Basam threw out his burly hand and struck a small boy. Smack! His hand fell on the boy's face. "That's for being out of line!" He told the stunned student who went to his class with a red hand print on his face and tears in his eyes.

Basam then strode into the teachers' room, victorious. He grabbed a cup of tea and blew on it to cool it. He then gulped down his beverage with slurpy sounds and some brown liquid oozed out around the corners of his mouth. He took his hand and brushed it across his mouth, wiping of the telltale signs. He slammed his cup down and without speaking to any of the other teachers who were clustered in small groups enjoying themselves, stormed out, heading for his first class of the day.

He barged through the doorway of the classroom with a further grunt and approached his students who immediately stood up as he entered. "Good morning, teacher Basam" they chorused timidly.

"What's good about it?" he questioned. "Having you all done your homework?" he demanded of his history students. "Whoever hasn't raise your hands!"

One hand rose, quivering. "Aha! come forward! And what's your excuse for not doing your homework?" he roared.

"No special reason, sir, it's just that I was tired yesterday so I didn't finish my assignment." His student said, trembling.

He no sooner had spoken than Basam's burly hand struck once again. Another smack that shattered the sullen

silence of the classroom. The red faced boy returned to his seat, his skin stinging with pain and embarrassment.

"I see there's also some names written on the board for a few students who were causing trouble. Hani, Mohammad and Awad, come here!"

The three students approached him hesitantly. He grabbed each boy in turn by his arm and twisted it behind his back. With a powerful slam, he hit each one and then let him go. After the reprimanding session was over, Basam proceeded to teach. His lessons were a series of screams for those pupils who didn't catch on quite fast enough and self-praise. "I know words that none of you will ever understand the meaning of. I've been to places that you'll never see!" He boasted with a gleam in his eye. Or, "Don't think that any of you can fool me, for I invented the art of deception," and with a smirk he remembered how he successfully pried money out of his pupils for the use of many school facilities that were free to all students but which Basam had found a means to net a small profit. Or any student who's grade was below the line could approach Basam and with a small down payment, purchase a higher score.

At the end of his class, Basam confidently strutted out of the room, his ego inflated and happy to vent his frustrations in life on his young students.

During recess, he usually found a student or two to hit or at least threaten. Most of the teachers found him unbearable and repulsive even as a fellow colleague. The petition was the only hope to rid the school of his unwanted presence.

His school day finished, Basam marched out of school, past the happy yells of the school boys, past the leafy trees, singing birds and aromatic flowers. On his way he grumbled and mumbled to himself, ignoring the simple beauties of the sights around him. "Just a few more days and school will finish. A lot of kids are going to flunk my class. They'll see. The only way they can save themselves is to purchase a higher grade." He burst into laughter, looking forward to the pile of money he would gain as students would rush to buy a passing grade. "I'll show them before they kick me out of school! I'm the inventor of deception!"

Basam held the power to inspire young minds with the torch of education, but instead, he frustrated his pupils and built a block that would be lodged in the hearts and minds of his students. Perhaps some would forever hate history because they disliked the teacher and his methods. Basam's frequent and hasty use of slaps and punches was no way to deal with his students as a means of intimidation to obey his commands. Instead of being an advisor, friend and a conveyor of knowledge, he only proved to be a burly bully that no one could stand.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, May 30

8:30 Day By Day

Won't You Be My Neighbour
Ryan and Kate want to celebrate their wedding anniversary out, so they ask Elaine to babysit for their baby even though she is not good at that.

9:10 Black Forest Clinic

Landslide

A mother and son are brutally beaten by the lodger, and the professor tries to convince them to report to the police.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Race Against The Harvest

Hogan is a rich farmer and owner of big harvesting machines. When he denies his neighbours access to his facilities he realises that success needs more than just machines, but determination as well.

Friday, May 31

8:30 Night Court

Judge Harold is worried about Paul whose girlfriend walks out on him and leaves.

him with a baby. But his worries are unfounded.

9:10 Shakespeare

10:00 News in English

10:20 In The Heat Of The Night

A Trip Upstate

A police officer witnesses the execution of a convicted criminal and feels sorry for him. The past is hard to bury.

Saturday, June 1

8:30 Bill Cosby Show

Rudy is hesitant to enter the school dance contest, her competitor is too good to beat.

9:00 Encounter

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Death Flight

Starring: Barbara Anderson
An American supersonic plane with 250 passengers takes off on a dangerous trip. All because Phillip does not get his promotion.

Sunday, June 2

8:30 Yes Minister

Open Government

9:10 Under The Sun

Adios General

When Gen. Pinochet took over the rule of Chile he ended all democratic aspects of life there. Worse still, he still rules the country through the military regime.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Paradise

Long Lost Lawson

When long lost Mr. Lawson returns, the relationship between Ethan and Mrs. Lawson turns sour, but only for a while.

Monday, June 3

8:30 Empty Nest

A girl walks into Dr. West's clinic with a request: "Make me a beautiful nose." Suddenly beauty fever hits his daughters too.

9:10 Nancy Wake

When Nancy's husband gets caught by the Germans, she manages to set him free... but the Gestapo now is after her.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Derrick

Businessman Martin embezzles millions and wants to flee the country with them. To that end he conceives a hellish plan, but Derrick's wit is hard to beat.

Tuesday, June 4

8:30 Perfect Strangers

Little Apartment Of Horrors

9:10 Adventures In Space

10:00 News in English

10:20 Columbo

Any Old Fort In A Storm
Through investigating a winery murder Columbo gets to learn all that he can about wine-making.

Wednesday, June 5

8:30 After Henry

Going Away

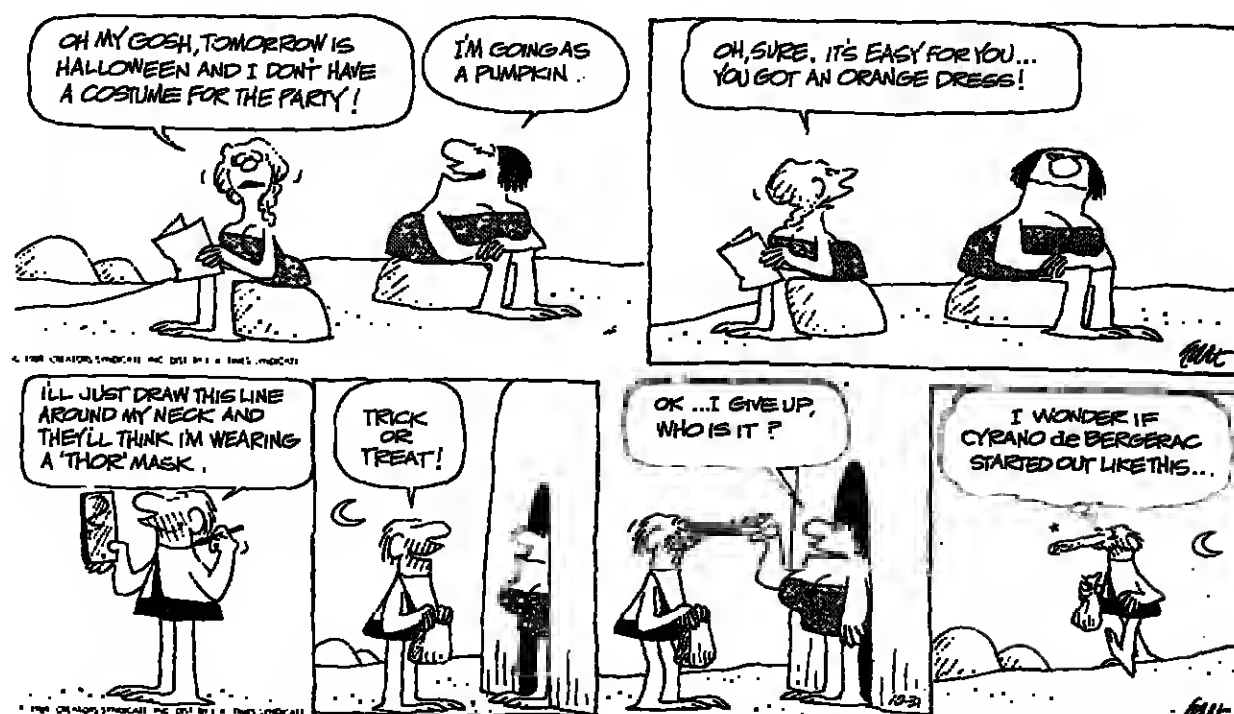
The whole family plans to go vacationing and the grandmother is contemplating the prospects of being left alone.

9:10 Our House

10:00 News in English

10:20 Not A Penny More, Not A Penny Less

B.C.



Masri urges U.S. effort

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian lands, Kaddoumi said that the United States efforts to facilitate such immigration were bound to complicate matters and place further obstacles in the path of a settlement.

He called on the U.N. Security Council to debate this issue, since he said, it is the council's responsibility to see to it that permanent peace is established in all parts of the world. Kaddoumi revealed that the PLO has already called on the council to discuss the issue as well as the Jewish settlement plans.

The Security Council, Kaddoumi said, should deal with the Palestine question on equal footing with Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. He said that the whole world should realize that the United States, which implemented the Security Council resolution against Iraq, was adopting double standards in the implementation of the international legitimacy.

Referring to the PLO's talks in Damascus, Kaddoumi said they were successful and positive, and

that the two sides held identical views with regard to the peace process including the role of the United Nations in that process and the convening of an international conference. The PLO delegation left Amman for Tunis Wednesday.

China backs Arab position

China on Wednesday backed Arab demands for the United Nations to have a role in any Middle East peace talks, Syrian officials said.

They said a high-ranking Chinese communist party delegation gave their country's views in talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

The officials quoted delegation leader Qiao Shi, a member of the standing committee of the Chinese party politburo, as saying:

"The Chinese position on the Middle East issue is identical to that of Syria. China is committed to the natural role of the United Nations in the peace efforts in the region."

Bush wants ceiling on Mideast arms

(Continued from page 1)

A freeze on the purchase, production and testing of surface-to-surface missiles by countries in the region, with the aim of ultimately eliminating them;

A ban on producing or buying weapons-grade uranium and to the placement of all nuclear facilities under international safeguards;

A call on all countries in the region to commit to early completion of a global treaty banning chemical weapons;

A proposal strengthening of a 1972 treaty banning biological weapons;

A call on the world's five major arms suppliers — the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union and China — to meet soon to establish guidelines for restraining sales of conventional arms, as well as weapons of mass destruction and related technology.

Mr. Bush's intention was to prevent the build-up of massive

armies and weaponry such as that which Iraq used to invade Kuwait last August 2 and threaten its Gulf neighbours.

His plan would try to balance regional military power and thus reduce tensions between Israel and Arab nations that are official at war with the Jewish state.

The U.S. plan would require cooperation between countries that have until now competed for lucrative defence contracts and flooded the region with tens of billions of dollars in weapons.

One question mark was whether China would agree to Bush's measures. Mr. Bush on Monday ordered new sanctions on China for its alleged sales of ballistic missile technology to underdeveloped nations like Pakistan.

Israel was also troubled by the proposal. Its defence ministry suggested on Tuesday that Mr. Bush should emphasise reductions in chemical weapons because "this is the primary problem in the region."

Ethiopians demonstrate against U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

flow of relief supplies from major Red Sea ports to thousands of Ethiopians threatened by famine.

The violent demonstrations were apparently triggered by growing resentment among the capital's 3 million residents over the manner in which the country's

new rulers came to power. "A lot of people feel betrayed by the U.S. for letting the rebels in," said one resident who witnessed the protests.

"There has been a lot of talk that it was a sellout by the U.S. and that the government delegation was shunted aside," said another.

Egypt calls on U.S. to speed up process

(Continued from page 1)

occupied in the 1967 war. Israel's interpretation is that the resolutions don't require withdrawal from all the territories. It contends that returning Sinai to Egypt under their 1979 peace treaty fulfilled the Jewish

state's pullout obligations.

Turning to turmoil among the Arabs caused by the Gulf crisis, Moussa said President Hosni Mubarak "is making contacts for restoring Arab solidarity and rallying Arab ranks."

150,000 killed in Gulf war

(Continued from page 1)

the Kurdish and Shiite rebellions against President Saddam Hussein's rule.

15,000 to 30,000 Kurds and other displaced people have died in refugee camps and on the road.

4,000 to 16,000 Iraqis have died of starvation and disease since the war ended.

343 allied troops died in combat and accidents among them were 266 Americans, of whom 145 were killed in action.

Think-tanks and the carousels of power

Reprinted from the Economist of May 25

"Those who desire to win the favour of princes generally endeavour to do so by offering them those things which they themselves prize most, or such as they observe the prince to delight in most." Niccolo Machiavelli.

WHEN Machiavelli sat down to write "The Prince," he was feeling anxious. Unemployed after many years in government service, he wrote his handbook of advice to new rulers in an attempt to win a job with the incoming Medici administration.

The Machiavelli problem would be instantly recognisable to hordes of would-be and once were government officials in today's world: "policy intellectuals," as Americans call them. They would not recognise his workplace. Displaced from power, he had to toil in a humble farmhouse outside Florence. Today he would sit in a think-tank, cosseted by secretaries and flattered by a stream of calls from talk-show producers.

The "policy intellectuals" still strive to present their conclusions as impartial expertise. But, like Machiavelli, they are forever tugging at the sleeves of politicians. Think-tanks, sitting uneasily halfway between government and universities, are institutions that embody this ambiguity.

Societies in which a broad consensus dominates political thinking — such as Germany and Japan today and the United States in the late 1950s and early 1960s — tend to respect the think-tanks' claim of neutrality. But when consensus breaks down, as it did in Britain and the United States in the late 1970s, think-tanks become more avowedly ideological. Their new role is to challenge conventional wisdom. They can articulate the instincts of dissidents in the language of the academy, and suggest ideas that bridge the gap between instinct and policy.

Many American think-tanks, such as the Washington-based Institute for International Economics, still cling to an aura of academic detachment. But an increasing number, typified by the conservative Heritage Foundation, define themselves above all by the fact that they hold a coherent body of ideas, and want to spread them.

Think-tanks sprout in America to an extent undreamed of elsewhere. A recent book — "The Idea Brokers," by James Smith — identifies over 1,000 private ones, around 100 in Washington alone. They range from the Brookings Institution, which is a vast battleship of a building on Massachusetts Avenue, to tiny lobbying outfits with offices the size of a doctor's waiting room.

They thrive in America for two good reasons. First, a lot of rich foundations are ready to pay good money to people to sit and think. Second, the American system of government is peculiarly open to such chosen thinkers. Each new administration in Washington appoints not only the heads of its departments, or ministries, but also a lot of people further down the departmental ladder. Groups like the Council of Economic Advisers and the State Department's Policy Planning Staff — government think-tanks, in effect — absorb more outsiders. The two houses of Congress employ a bureaucracy with a huge appetite for independent research. Plenty of work here for thinkers who can catch the political tide.

policy at home, détente with Russia abroad. By 1981 much of the intellectual spadework for the Reagan presidency had been done.

Their apparent success prodded Democrats to start building a counter-counter-establishment. The Progressive Policy Institute was set up by the Democratic Leadership Council, which is on the right wing of the Democratic Party. The Economic Policy Institute, born in 1986, is a bit further left: like the Heritage Foundation, but the other way round, it sees itself as a rebel fighting conventional wisdom.

Britain's gaddies

The shift from an above-it-all "objectivity" to an open confession of partisanship took place in Britain too, at around the same time. Thatcherism, like Reaganism, drew heavily upon the work of bright neo-conservatives outraged by the "years of stagnation" in the prime ministries of Harold Wilson and James Callaghan.

There were British think-tanks before Margaret Thatcher became prime minister. But, with the notable exception of the free-market Institute of Economic Affairs (widely regarded in the 1960s, by people who now wish they hadn't, as a home for impractical crackpots), they were guardians of the chalice of consensus.

The big three — the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), the Policy Studies Institute and the National Institute of Economic and Social Research — still see themselves as purveyors of well-researched common sense. The director of the Policy Studies Institute, Bill Daniel, acknowledges a belief that consensus is attainable if you "establish the facts and get people of good will together."

To Britain's neo-conservatives that was, at best, naïve. Together with Sir Keith Joseph, Mrs. Thatcher founded the Centre for Policy Studies (CPS) in 1974. Its current director of studies, David Wilets, says the CPS started by assuming that "a lot of the research put out by established think-tanks had a basic bias in favour of increased government spending and an essential belief in the rationality of government."

With a tiny staff (currently seven, including secretaries), the CPS sponsored pioneering work on many of the ideas that came to define Thatcherism — privatisation, the "enterprise culture," a monetary explanation for inflation. Its close links to the policy unit in the prime minister's office (staff members swapped jobs between the two places) ensured that its arguments were heard.

As in America, the success of Britain's neo-conservative think-tanks prompted imitation from the other side. In 1983 a group of left-wing luminaries, led by Lady (Tessa) Blackstone, launched the Institute for Public Policy Research. This is formally independent of the Labour Party, but has close links with its leaders.

The fall of Mrs. Thatcher seems to leave Britain's neo-conservative think-tanks out on the end of a creaking branch. Bill Daniel sees them as "gaddies who flourished while their princelings were in power," and foresees a steep decline in their influence. The CPS, seeking to prove him wrong, has installed Britain's new prime minister, John Major, as its patron. But sucking with the Conservative

establishment may mean that the CPS loses its claim to radicalism. The organisation's uncertainty is shown by its decision not to have any particular point of view, on the future of the European Community; a decision that makes more jaws than Mrs. Thatcher's drop.

Oddly, the think-tank that seems closest to catching the next intellectual wave is the one whose collapse seemed most logical a year ago. The Social Market Foundation was set up to serve David Owen's Social Democrats, a party that no longer exists. But its name contains the latest buzzword.

The Conservative Party's new chairman, Chris Patten, has told Marxism Today of his interest in the German idea of a "social market," which believes it is possible to unleash capitalism's efficiency but also to keep it under the supervising eye of society; to combine the engine of individualism and a communal conscience. Mr. Patten even mused that the Conservative Party might set up a think-tank on the lines of Germany's Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the research arm of the governing Christian Democrats.

If Germany is indeed to be the model, the British think-tanks may soon be scrambling back towards technocracy and the politics of boring old consensus.

No ideology please, we're German

At first sight, it is surprising that German think-tanks should be notable for ideological pragmatism. The biggest institutes — the publicly financed research departments of the Konrad Adenauer foundation and its Social Democratic equivalent, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation — are, after all, the offspring of political parties. Partisanship should be their middle name. In fact, their relations with the parties they serve sharply restrict their ability to tackle controversial topics. Conclusions, even subjects, embarrassing to the party are unlikely to be pursued.

Immigration is pressing and difficult issue. It would naturally commend itself to an American think-tank. The party ones in Germany are reluctant to consider so awkward a matter: almost anything you say is liable to embarrass the particular group of politicians you have to worry about.

Asked about research into immigration quotas, Josef Tiesing of the Adenauer foundation shifts uneasily on his leather sofa. "This is a political question," he says, "it is not a scientific question."

Those tempted to wander over that dividing line can be forcefully reminded of it. One research project, into who would control Soviet nuclear weapons if the Soviet Union broke up, was abruptly abandoned last year.

Too political. The distinction between "scientific" and "political" research is not just a dodge to help the big German foundations avoid embarrassing their patrons. It is observed, almost as carefully, by the think-tanks that are not dependent on party money or approval. Something German is at work here. There is a tendency to insist that a researcher's work should be "value-free." This reflects two German habits: an old one, an academic tradition that takes the "science" bit in social science very seriously; and a newer yearning for consensus, for believing that all sensible people really agree with each other.

Since 1959, when the Social

Democrats embraced capitalism, German politics has been a large clustering around the centre, with only a few dissenters on the margins. Meinhard Miegel, once a Christian Democratic politician, who heads the Institut für Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft (Institute for Economics and Society) in Bonn, could think of no influential German think-tank — even the one run by Greens — that did not accept the basic tenets of the social market. Mr. Miegel set up his think-tank in 1977. He was not out to break the mould, just to collect better data. He recalls thinking: "This is crazy, we are trying to run a party without

His institute works on issues ranging from demography to labour shortages. Inevitably, given his background, its research has found its most appreciative audience among Christian Democrats. But its deliberately non-partisan approach is no pose; it helps to shape the institute's choice of research subjects, the way its conclusions are presented, and so, indirectly, the whole tone of debate in the country. In Germany interest groups like to present their views as the product of exhaustive research rather than of a distinctive philosophy.

Will German think-tanks ever go the way of some of their English-speaking counterparts, and plunge into the deep waters of ideology? Some see signs of a tendency in that direction. They look in particular at the appointment in 1988 of Michael Stürmer, a conservative historian with a philosophical bent, as head of the Stiftung für Wissenschaft und Politik (Foundation for Science and Politics) in Ebenhausen, near Munich. This institute, with over 150 researchers, does a lot of work for the federal government; it specialises in data, not policy recommendations. The appointment of Mr. Stürmer, a friend of Chancellor Kohl and a man often seen on television, made some of the staff fear they were going to be "politicised." So far, they seem to have feared wrongly; Ebenhausen stays in the good solid German tradition.

The Germans have not yet created what American and Britons would call a real think-tank. That requires the revolving door. People with bright ideas must not only carry their opinions out of politics and into the research institutions, but must regularly move back the opposite way when the call comes. In Germany, so far, the door separates two largely distinct worlds.

East is east but Moscow is west. If American think-tankers would find Germany odd, they would be floored by Japan — but would cock an interested eyebrow when they went to the Soviet Union.

In Japan, as in Germany, love of consensus and the absence of a revolving door leave little room for unorthodox views peddled by independent institutes. The main think-tanks are offshoots of big firms or finance houses; the Nomura Research Institute, the Daiwa Research Institute, the Mitsubishi Research Institute. These bodies produce voluminous reports crammed with data on subjects that interest their sponsors. They are good at description, less so at analysis, which might disagree with the boss's views. The research arms of Japan's securities firms have been relentlessly bullish throughout a 48% decline in the value of the Tokyo stockmarket.

The curious processes of

Japan's decision-making reverse the usual relationship between government and "policy intellectuals." In America and Britain, even to some extent in Germany, think-tanks set out to influence the government. In Japan the government tends to see academics as a useful way of influencing public opinion: how handy if they can be persuaded to open public discussion of a policy change the politicians want to make.

In the Soviet Union, on the other hand, there is no longer any pretence that academics can be above the tumult of political conflict. If consensus breeds academic complaisance, chaos does the opposite. Many members of the Moscow research institutes have buried themselves into politics, as advisers to Mikhail Gorbachev or Boris Yeltsin or as politicians in their own right.

The big think-tanks are still the state-financed offshoots of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. These include the Central Economic and Mathematical Institute (TSEMI) and the Institute of the World Economy and International Relations (IMEIO). But since glasnost, they have lived in a different world. Compare the role of TSEMI under Brezhnev and Mr. Gorbachev.

In the mid-1960s the Kremlin, seeing that the economic system was not working, briefly flirted with the idea of changing it. TSEMI was given the job of producing an alternative to the ideas of the state planning agency, Gosplan. But the Kosygin reforms, as they came to be known, were ditched. TSEMI dutifully fell quiet. A quarter of a century later, when Mr. Gorbachev was feeling reform-minded, it was a head of department at TSEMI, Stanislav Shatalin, who drafted the "500-day plan," a proposal for sweeping free-market reforms. They eventually proved too sweeping for Mr. Gorbachev. But this time the TSEMI man kept on talking, and threw in his lot with Mr. Yeltsin. Most of the Moscow think-tanks have now aligned themselves with Mr. Yeltsin.

The revolving door has begun to rotate. When Edward Shevardnadze resigned as foreign minister, he at once set up the first privately financed think-tank in the Soviet Union, the Foreign Policy Association. This is expected to be a ginger group for "new thinking" in foreign policy.

The oddity is that, just when the Soviet Union is discovering the merit of think-tanks engaged in ideological combat, the American scene has gone quiet. It was Michael Dukakis who said that what matters is "not ideology, but competence." Yet it is George Bush who seems to have adopted that numbing proposition as a personal creed. In today's Washington, where ideology is a murmur of distant guns but technocrats have not quite recovered their old authority, the think-tanks seem at a loss; many of them are cutting the size of their staffs.

The dog-days will not last. The United States of the 1990s has a manifest need for independent thought. The great issues of domestic policy — the budget, the proper handling of welfare, education, race relations — stay unresolved. That grand-sounding "new world order" is still a phrase in search of a meaning. Modern Machiavellis have plenty to think about.

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AQABA - JORDAN

Brazil produces vintage form to beat Bulgaria

UBERLANDIA, Brazil (R) — Brazil unleashed its patented sparkling, aggressive soccer to beat Bulgaria 3-0 and give the Brazilians their first victory in a full international since beating Scotland in a World Cup soccer match last June.

Brazil received two goals from captain Neto and one from Joao Paulo, but the winners easily could have doubled their score as they ran rings around the weary and weakened Bulgarians with the type of soccer reminiscent of their heyday.

Brazil went straight into the attack, creating four clear scoring chances before Neto gave them the lead in the 17th minute, following a pass from Joao Paulo.

Eight minutes later Joao Paulo, who caused the Bulgarian defense enormous problems with his dribbling throughout the match, increased Brazil's lead by dribbling past three defenders and wrong-footing goalkeeper Nikolov before booting the ball into the empty net.

Careca II missed two clear chances to add a third goal before halftime, heading one effort straight at Nikolov and seeing another cleared off the line by a defender with Nikolov beaten.

Joao Paulo and Careca II both missed chances early in the second half before Neto scored in the 69th minute, beating a defender and shooting into the far corner of Nikolov's goal after another pass from Joao Paulo.

Bulgaria, which arrived Monday following a 24-hour journey and played with virtually a reserve team, barely threatened Sergio in the Brazilian goal.

PARIS (Agencies) — With aggressive, near-perfect tennis in near-perfect weather, Steffi Graf Wednesday became the first seed to reach the third round of the French Open.

The second-seeded German demolished Petra Langrova, a 20-year-old Czechoslovak ranked 80th in the world, 6-0, 6-1 in match lasting only 45 minutes.

Graf repeatedly attacked Langrova's weak serve and said she was "especially eager to play well" after a relatively difficult 6-3, 7-6 first-round victory over Magdalena Maleeva.

Her ultimate goal here is a championship that could reclaim the world no. 1 spot from top-seeded defending titlist Monica Seles.

Monica Seles and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the women's champions in 1990 and 1989, started out with easy wins.

Yugoslav Seles beat Radka Zrubakova of Czechoslovakia 6-3, 6-0 while the Spaniard dropped only one game more in beating American Lori McNeil 6-2, 6-2.

Argentine third seed Gabriela Sabatini, the U.S. Open champion whose game has improved radically this year, also had no trouble, defeating American Marianne Werdel 6-1, 6-1.

The big guns in the women's field also served notice they're on track for second-week show-downs. Seles, along with no. 3 seed Gabriela Sabatini, won easily Tuesday.

Sabatini and Graf each could dethrone Seles as the no. 1 women's player by winning the French Open.

All but one of the 16 seeded women survived the first round. The victim was no. 8 Zina Garrison, never comfortable on clay, and the victor was a Japanese teenager, Naoko Sawamatsu, who turned pro only two months ago.

Seles has lost to both Graf and Sabatini this year, but she brimmed with confidence Tuesday.

Both rate clay as their least favorite surface but both looked strong on the second day of the century French Open.

"If I can go on like that for a few matches, I have a chance," said Becker who has been working on his clay court game with new coach Tomas Smid, the 1986 French Open doubles champion.

Becker, who meets Australian Todd Woodbridge in the second round, has played only a few exhibition matches since losing to Brugnera in the Monte Carlo final a month ago.

But, with no obvious favorite in Paris, he is being tipped to win his first title on clay.

"It wouldn't be bad starting here," said Becker, who has won every other Grand Slam title at least once and lost the Wimbledon crown to Edberg last year.

Edberg, who has won twice at Wimbledon — beating Becker in both finals — and twice at the Australian Open, admitted he often thought back to his missed chance at Roland Garros two years ago, when he lost a five-set final to American Michael Chang.

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Agassi, Sampras advance

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Edberg, Becker erase memories of last year

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Steffi Graf recovers her old flair

6-2. That set up a third-round match between Agassi and John McEnroe's younger brother, Patrick, who beat Australian Jason Stoltenberg 7-6 (7-1), 6-2, 6-4.

One seed with little past success on clay needed heroics to advance. U.S. Open champion Pete Sampras dropped the first two sets to powerful clay-court specialist Thomas Muster, then came back to win 4-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-4. It was the first time Sampras had won a match after dropping the opening two sets, and he did so by overcoming a 1-4 deficit in the last set.

Goran Ivanisevic of Yugoslavia, the no. 8 seed who ousted Becker here a year ago, defeated France's Frederic Fontang, but was fined \$1,000 for spitting in his rival's direction.

Well-known unseeded players reaching the second round include former titleholder Mats Wilander, a straight-sets winner Tuesday, and former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash.

Chang victorious

Chang, seeded 10th, and France's best hope, no. 7 seed Guy Forget, also advanced, but after difficult matches.

Chang outlasted Sweden's Lars Jonsson, 7-6 (7-4), 4-6, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, raising his career record in

Switzerland's Andre Agassi, who has won every other Grand Slam title at least once and lost the Wimbledon crown to Edberg last year.

Edberg, who has won twice at Wimbledon — beating Becker in both finals — and twice at the Australian Open, admitted he often thought back to his missed chance at Roland Garros two years ago, when he lost a five-set final to American Michael Chang.

"You are not going to get that many chances to win a Grand Slam," the 25-year-old Swede said. "But I think I still have a few years."

Edberg enjoys the constant struggle against Becker, nearly two years his junior.

"We have been challenging each other for many, many years now," he said. "I think it is good for the game of tennis to have a rivalry like this."

"It keeps me going and I am sure it keeps him going."

"If I could play like that for a couple more games I think I could have a chance of winning the tournament," said the German who faces Australian Todd Woodbridge in the second round.

Sweden's Mats Wilander, champion here three times but absent last year, showed he had not lost his touch by comprehensively beating Mexican Leonardo Lavalle 6-4, 6-3, 6-2.

Wilander said he was feeling relaxed after taking two months off earlier this year to concentrate on singing and playing the guitar with a friend's band.

"It was the most funny thing I have ever done in my life so it was good for me as a human being if not for my tennis," he said.

Agassi, Sampras advance

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five-set matches to a remarkable 3-1. He wasted three points at the end before winning when the umpire overruled a line call in his favor.

Forget, cheered on by a noisy centre-court crowd, survived a scare against American Jimmy Arias. The Frenchman won the first two sets easily, dropped the third and trailed 1-

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK	TOKYO
Sterling Pound	1.7455	1.7466
Deutsche Mark	1.6935	1.6939
Swiss Franc	1.4435	1.4442
French Franc	5.7545	5.7575 **
Japanese Yen	137.46	137.6
European Currency Unit	1.2110	1.2104**

USD Per STG
European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 29/5/91

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.87	6.00	6.06	6.50
Sterling Pound	11.50	11.37	11.12	10.33
Deutsche Mark	5.81	5.93	9.00	9.00
Swiss Franc	5.06	5.06	5.00	7.31
French Franc	9.37	9.25	9.25	9.25
Japanese Yen	7.51	7.55	7.54	7.37
European Currency Unit	9.57	9.75	9.62	9.50

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 29/5/91

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	361.80	6.70	Silver	4.76	.098

100 Grams

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 29/5/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.678	.680
Sterling Pound	1.1836	1.1895
Deutsche Mark	.4001	.4021
Swiss Franc	.4693	.4716
French Franc	.1178	.1184
Japanese Yen	.4918	.4943
Dutch Guilder	.3552	.3570
Swedish Krona	.1116	.1122
Italian Lira	.0538	.0541
Belgian Franc	.01935	.01945

Other Currencies Date: 29/5/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7300	1.7400
Lebanese Lira	.074	.076
Saudi Riyal	.1603	.1612
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1825	.1835
Egyptian Pound	.1900	.2050
Omani Riyal	1.7150	1.7300
UAE Dirham	.1825	.1835
Greek Drachma	.3550	.3650
Cypriot Pound	1.4300	1.4400

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	27/5/91 Close	28/5/91 Close
All-Share	113.33	113.75
Banking Sector	110.14	110.83
Insurance Sector	112.19	112.46
Industry Sector	116.82	116.79
Services Sector	125.42	126.03

December 31, 1990 = 100

Bahrain reports rise in exports, imports

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain's total exports in the fourth quarter of 1990 rose by 33.9 per cent to 447.2 million dinars (\$1.186 billion) from the same period of 1989, the Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) said.

A BMA quarterly report said total exports in the fourth quarter of 1989 were 334 million dinars (\$886 million).

Oil income rose sharply to 375.1 million dinars (\$995 million), up 63.6 per cent on 229.2 million dinars (\$608 million) in the same period of 1989.

But fourth quarter non-oil income plunged to 72.1 million dinars (\$191 million) from 104.8 million dinars (\$278 million) in 1989.

Fourth quarter imports rose to 432.4 million dinars (\$1.147 billion) from 335 million dinars (\$889 million) in the same period of 1989.

Oil imports almost doubled to 238.1 million dinars (\$632 million) from 136.9 million dinars (\$363 million) the previous year.

Bahrain imports nearly 200,000 barrels of oil per day from neighbouring Saudi Arabia through pipelines for refining.

Non-oil imports fell slightly to 194.3 million dinars (\$515.4 million) from 198.3 million dinars (\$526 million) in the same period of 1989.

The BMA report also showed that assets of Bahrain's offshore banking units (OBUS) rose by 3.6 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1990 compared with the third quarter but were sharply down on the same period of 1989.

Total assets on Dec. 31, 1990 stood at \$59.86 billion against \$57.78 billion at the end of the previous quarter.

Assets of OBUS were \$72.58 billion on Dec. 31, 1989, seven months before the outbreak of the Gulf crisis.

The BMA said 51 OBUS were operating in Bahrain at the end of 1990. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait undermined confidence in Gulf Arab financial markets, leading to heavy deposit withdrawals.

The BMA said West European countries provided \$11.5 billion of total deposits and received \$13.3 billion of total loans, while offshore centres had about \$3.2 billion of total liabilities and \$4.9 billion of total assets.

Assets of commercial banks declined to 1.871 billion dinars (\$4.962 billion) in the fourth quarter from 1.925 billion dinars (\$5.1 billion) for the third quarter.

Private sector deposits totalled 825.5 million dinars (\$2.18 billion) at the end of 1990, unchanged from the previous quarter.

Public sector deposits rose to 511.1 million dinars (\$1.356 billion) from 419.4 million (\$1.112 billion) at the end of September.

Total BMA assets rose in the fourth quarter to \$42.778 billion dinars (\$1.440 billion) compared with 423.274 million (\$1.123 billion) in the third quarter.

Consumer confidence in U.S. declines for second month

NEW YORK (R) — Consumer confidence fell for the second consecutive month in May, undermining other recent signs that the U.S. recession may be nearing an end, a private business group said Tuesday.

The Conference Board, a business research group, said its monthly index of consumer confidence registered 74.2 in May, down from 79.4 in April.

In March, after the end of the Gulf war, the index shot up to 81.1, its highest level since last September. The index is based on a 1985 reading of 100.

This month's survey found that people were increasingly nervous about the economy and less optimistic in their outlook for the future. Buying plans were moderately weaker in May.

"The euphoria which followed the victory in the Gulf is wearing off and people's attention is returning to the realities of a soft economy," said Fabian Linden, executive director of the Conference Board.

The monthly survey of 5,000 American households found that about 38 per cent believe current business conditions are bad, up from 36 per cent last month. Only 11 per cent said they were good.

There was also a rise in concern about unemployment. A total of 38.6 per cent of respondents said jobs were hard to get in May, up from 35.5 per cent in April. Less than 10 per cent said jobs were plentiful.

Consumers' plans to buy cars, which rose in April, fell in May, the survey found. Car-buying plans continue to run well below year-ago levels.

Intentions to buy a home fell for the second straight month, after posting a good gain in March. Plans to acquire a major appliance also remain weak, the New York-based board said.

Consumers' expectations, while weaker, did not take a dramatic fall, the group said.

"Still, consumer expectations, while weaker than they were a month or two earlier, remain at a reasonably sturdy level," Mr. Linden said.

"But given the recent messages that we have been receiving from consumers, the suggestion that the recession is 'bottoming out' may still be somewhat premature," he added.

Iran central bank secures 70% of foreign loans needed

ISFAHAN Iran (R) — Iran emerging from more than a decade of political and economic isolation, has secured most of the \$17.5 billion it is seeking from foreign banks to help finance its 1990-94 economic plan.

Central bank governor Mohammad Hossein Adeli told Reuters that 70 per cent had been secured and the balance would be negotiated within a year.

Iran plans to raise another \$10 billion through trade buy agreements — formal credits set against future trade.

Mr. Adeli said the loans agreed so far carried a two to five year grace period, and repayments would be completed in around 15 years.

"We don't intend to take any financing for balance of payments, only for projects," Mr. Adeli said.

French banks were at the forefront of a long list including Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Sweden, Canada, Japan and some based in Luxembourg.

Talks with Australian banks had also begun, he added.

Iran has run a positive balance of payments for the past few years and the Gulf crisis helped the oil revenues leap \$6 to \$7 billion in the year ending March 31 from a year ago, central bank sources said.

Mr. Adeli, without giving details, said Iran's reserves in Europe were higher than the \$7 billion estimated by the Bank for International Settlements.

A team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) visited Iran last week, but there was no question of Iran applying to the IMF for loans, Mr. Adeli said.

"They were just here for consultations and we are not planning to enter any programme with the IMF," he said.

Mr. Adeli said Iran wanted to increase cooperation with the IMF but as a creditor.

He said the IMF was going to produce a country report on Iran but lacked macro-economic information after Iran's 12 year absence from the international financial community following the 1979 revolution.

Austerity measures during the past 18 months have cut inflation to nine per cent in the year ending in March, marking the first time Iran posted a single digit rate for 15 years, Mr. Adeli said.

The previous year the inflation rate was 17.5 per cent.

Gross domestic product (GDP) increased 10.1 per cent last year, after a four per cent increase the previous year and a negative growth rate the year before.

That GDP performance reflects a recovery from a low base caused by the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

In absolute terms the oil sector's growth was greatest, but in percentage terms the industry and construction sectors grew faster. A programme of deregulation has helped accelerate the growth.

Iran's decision in February to peg the rial at 1,380 to the dollar

— much closer to the free-market rate — has made its currency more stable.

The surge in oil revenues — which provide around 95 per cent of foreign exchange earnings — to close to \$19 billion in the year ended in March helped a faster reduction in Iran's budget deficit.

The deficit fell to 570 billion rials in the year ended in March from 12,000 billion the previous year and 26,000 billion the year before.

Stiff tax increases and an improvement in the tax collection system helped boost tax revenues by 32 per cent last year, Mr. Adeli said.

Tax revenues were equivalent to around five per cent of the country's 27,000 million rial GDP, central bank sources said.

The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) was given a \$5.6 billion budget to help raise oil production capacity by around 1.5 million barrels per day to five million by 1993, which would leave Iran around one million short of its per-revolution sustainable capacity.

Iranian Finance Minister Mohsen Noorbakhsh said earlier his country was seeking \$27.7 billion in foreign credits to help finance its 1990-94 plan.

He also told reporters that Saudi Arabia and its partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council — previously hostile to Tehran — have invited Iran to join a planned Gulf common market.

"We all agreed to work in this context to have regional cooperation," said Mr. Noorbakhsh.

He said Iran was negotiating with foreign governments and international banks to secure \$17.7 billion in investments and foreign credits. Another \$10 billion would be in the form of export credits.

Mr. Noorbakhsh, a strong supporter of the liberal policies of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, said Iran's parliament no longer opposed seeking foreign credits.

"We have already started negotiations with countries like Germany and France," he said describing the talks as positive.

He said an "arbitration problem" with Coface, the French export credit agency, was "over." He did not give further details.

He said Iran would spend \$120 billion on its five-year plan, which started in March last year.



Mohsen Noorbakhsh
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Minister reassures Iraqis on new banknotes

NICOSIA (R) — Baghdad's finance minister has reassured Iraqis their new banknotes are as good as the old despite rumours they were printed on photocopies.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) Wednesday quoted Finance Minister Majed Abd Jaafar as saying the Iraqi dinar would regain its pre-Gulf war status and value in a short time.

"The Iraqi currency, including the recently introduced 25 and 50 dinar notes, is fully backed financially," Mr. Jaafar told the Baghdad weekly Al-Ba'a, according to INA.

One of many rumours circulating in the country is that the new 25 dinar notes, thinner and paler than their predecessors, were printed on colour photocopying machines rather than by the government's traditional printer.

INA, received in Cyprus, quoted Mr. Jaafar as saying: "The experts... made sure several secrets were hidden (in the new note) to guarantee it would not be exposed to forgery attempts."

Travellers have told Reuters in Baghdad that in north of Iraq the new 25-dinar note, printed in large quantities as prices rocketed during the Gulf war, counts as 15 dinars. The old one is treated as 30 dinars.

Some Iraqis apparently fear the notes were issued as an emergency measure and will become worthless once the economy settles.

South Korean economy set for strong growth despite unrest

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's economy, recovering from a prolonged export slump, is set for strong growth in 1991 despite weeks of social and political turmoil that rocked President Roh Tae-woo's government, economists have said.

Few businessmen and foreign buyers appear to have lost confidence in the economy. Investment in production facilities shows no sign of declining, they said.

"All indications point to solid growth this year," said Kim Han-Ung, research director of the country's central bank, the Bank of Korea (BOK).

"In fact some sectors of the economy are overheating the face (labour, materials and investment) bottlenecks," he said.

Economic planners will face a difficult task in controlling inflation which, gauged by the consumer price index, stood at 10.1 per cent at the end of the April from a year earlier.

Mr. Kim said export-led economic growth would help the current account balance of payments return to surplus next year.

Last year's deficit of \$2.16 billion was expected to shrink to less than \$2 billion in 1991, he added.

Economists said many workers did not take part in the almost daily anti-government protests that have plagued South Korea since police in Seoul beat a student demonstrator to death on April 26.

The wave of anger among students and dissidents brought tens of thousands, sometimes hundreds of thousands of people on to the streets in May. Roh responded by sacking hardline premier Ro Jai-Bong and reshuffling the cabinet over the weekend.

"There have been anti-government demonstrations in many years in South Korea and the protests themselves have had little impact on the economy," said Chang Won-Hyok, vice-president of Chase Manhattan Bank.

Even in 1987, when nationwide street demonstrations forced then-President Chun Doo Hwan to bow to demands for direct elections, the economy grew by an impressive 12.9 per cent, bankers and economists said.

BOK officials said exports between Jan. 1 and May 24 grew 14.5 per cent from the same period the year before to \$25.4 billion.

Exports increased 4.2 per cent in all of 1990.

In the first 24 days in May, when the recent wave of South Korean protests peaked, exports rose 25.7 per cent from the same period the year before to \$4.16 billion.

"During the 24-day period, the arrival of letters of export credit rose 16.7 per cent," the BOK's Kim said.

He predicted a nine per cent real growth in gross national product (GNP), the total value of goods and services produced by an economy, in 1991, unchanged from last year.

Mr. Yom Dong-Chul, trade promotion manager at the Korea Foreign Trade Association, said it was important to note there was no major labour dispute in May this year, departing from a pattern seen in the past four years when companies reported billions of dollars of production losses due to strikes.

E. German Treuhand agency to break 1991 credit limit

BERLIN (R) — Germany's Treuhand privatisation agency is likely to overshoot its 25 billion mark (\$14 billion) borrowing limit this year, highlighting the spiralling costs of German unification.

A senior official has said extra loans were needed to pay for mass dismissals in the east's de-capital industries.

The Treuhand, charged with selling, rescuing or closing former communist firms, has borrowed six billion marks (\$3.4 billion) on short-term money markets.

Last month it launched a two billion mark (\$1.1 billion) commercial paper issue.

"At the moment they're working to budget. But they could break it by three billion marks (\$1.7 billion) later this year," a senior Bonn official said.

A breach of the Treuhand's credit limit, set in last year's hastily-negotiated treaty sealing unity between east and west, could further strain German credit markets and keep interest rates high.

Growing social unrest due to mass unemployment in the east has forced the Treuhand to water down a harsh sell-or-close privatisation policy, yielding to union demands that dismissed workers should receive minimum redundancy pay-outs.

"This will hit the Treuhand's pocket hard this year," the official said.

The Treuhand has decided to save the east's loss-making chemical, shipyard and steel industries from immediate closure and pay for turning them around over a two to three year period.

Government economic advisers warned that this switch in policy would make it far more expensive to rescue the economy of the depressed east, in free-fall since it merged with the west last July.

After visiting the Treuhand's Berlin headquarters, Finance Minister Theo Waigel said he would back the agency's new policy of rescuing some failed companies to save jobs.

"Social support measures will cost a lot of money but they are necessary," he told reporters.

A clause in the unification treaty empowers Mr. Waigel to raise the Treuhand's borrowing limit.

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NATO pledges drastic changes in strategy

BRUSSELS (AP) — The primary Western military alliance, citing the end of the cold war, pledged drastic changes in NATO military strategy Wednesday as a response to new security threats in Eastern Europe and the Gulf.

The new era has well and truly begun for Europe and the alliance, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) defence ministers said in a final communiqué issued after two days of talks.

U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and his NATO colleagues endorsed a "new force structure" for the alliance, the centrepiece of which is a largely European "Rapid Reaction Corps" of at least four divisions under British command.

These "will provide the basis for the flexible deployment of a range of forces depending on the situation," the ministers said in the communiqué.

The defence ministers also discussed the fate of NATO's 4,000 short-range nuclear warheads. But they announced no action on any cuts in these weapons, which will be the subject of East-West arms control talks once a conventional arms reduction treaty has been ratified by the NATO and Warsaw nations.

The officials also pledged to continue "the process of dialogue" with Eastern European nations. And they warned reduced East-West tensions will not quickly yield reduced defence outlays in the NATO states.

NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner told reporters the NATO allies expect "substantial reductions" in defence budgets in the long term, but possibly higher short-term costs to restructure and modernise the alliance's forces.

For "the majority (of the 16 NATO states) defence expenditures in real terms should not be expected to reduce substantially in the near term," the communiqué said.

The accord on the Rapid Reaction Corps came less than a year after the NATO leaders, at a

London summit, vowed to change NATO's military posture into one that reflects the end of superpower rivalry.

Still to be worked out, the statement said, are details on NATO's new command structure.

Until now, NATO has relied on national forces operating side by side to prevent a massive assault into the alliance's central region, mostly Germany, from the now-defunct Warsaw Pact.

The NATO communiqué recognised that the end of the cold war signalled a "much improved security environment in Europe" which has made "an East-West conflict much more unlikely."

It said the allies will maintain a credible, albeit sharply reduced military presence. It cited a politically unstable Eastern Europe, especially the Soviet Union, Europe's largest military power.

The future use of NATO's Rapid Reaction Forces "points to a problem we are confronted with," Woerner said.

Speaking on Eastern Europe, he added, "we have to deal with a very unstable situation around us and with a lot of risks you cannot yet clearly define." The NATO communiqué also cited the Gulf war as an example of an outside threat to NATO security.

"Thus, the alliance needs to continue to work to protect peace and freedom and must preserve the strategic balance and maintain credible deterrence and an effective common defence to counter any threat to the territory of the allies," the communiqué said.

As NATO prepares for deep overall cuts in its forces — allied troops in its Central European region alone will likely go from 830,000 to 625,000 by 1995 — it will in the future field more mobile, more integrated units.

The Rapid Reaction Corps is part of an overall new strategy for NATO, to be adopted formally at an autumn NATO summit. That overall strategy will also reflect a reduced reliance on nuclear arms and a greater role for Europe



Dick Cheney

within the new NATO.

In addition to the deployment force, there will be two other key components of NATO's future military posture: Main defence forces to protect alliance territory in a conflict and reinforcement forces.

Given its makeup, the Rapid Reaction Corps of 50,000 to 70,000 European troops is seen as the kernel for a future European defence force that may operate with or without U.S. forces.

Since 1967, NATO has relied on a "flexible response" strategy, promising the former Warsaw Pact a reply in kind to conventional and nuclear attack.

The Rapid Reaction Corps will comprise air, land and sea units under British command. It is to be in place after 1994 — when the Soviet Union is due to withdraw the last of its 370,000 troops in the former East Germany — and may deploy anywhere in the NATO's European area in times of crisis.

The force will have at least four divisions: Two British and two multinational. The latter two will have forces from Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Britain and the southern allies, including Italy.

The United States might field a fifth division, officials said. A division is usually about 15,000 soldiers.

Lithuanian border post attacked

MOSCOW (AP) — A Lithuanian customs checkpoint on the Byelorussian border was attacked Tuesday night by an armed band of about 15 people dressed in military uniforms and civilian clothes, a parliamentary spokeswoman said Wednesday.

The attack followed a resolution by the Supreme Council parliament condemning the presence of Soviet Interior Ministry troops — the "black berets" — in the republic and recent raids on border posts.

Spokeswoman Rita Dapkus said a truck with approximately 15 passengers armed with automatic weapons drove up to the Latoriskes Customs Post on the Byelorussian border.

The attackers kicked and heavily beat the guards, using the butt end of the automatic rifles, Ms. Dapkus said by telephone from the capital of Vilnius. Afterward, they set fire to the post, she said.

Two of the four guards required hospitalisation, Ms. Dapkus said.

The Supreme Council resolution Tuesday branded the Soviet Interior Ministry troops outlaws and calling for their punishment under Lithuanian law. The resolution did not say how the republics intended to carry out the prosecutions.

Soviet troops have conducted at least 14 raids on Baltic border checkpoints, run by the republic governments, in recent weeks. Two people have died in the attacks.

The customs checkpoints were set up after the Republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia declared independence in 1990, moves that were rejected by the Kremlin.

Baltic leaders warn the incidents will provoke a violent response that might serve as a pretext for military crackdowns similar to those in January, when Soviet troops killed more than 20 people in Lithuania and Latvia.

Soviet Interior Minister Boris Pugo, in a report submitted to the national legislature Tuesday, said that two attacks on May 23 and May 24 were legal "in general" because soldiers were protecting "interests of citizens and the state," the independent news agency Baltfax said Tuesday.

However, Pugo also said the operations were taken "without the knowledge and order of the USSR Interior Ministry," and said investigators had been sent to the republics.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev already has announced the investigations and said Kremlin officials did not authorise the raids.

Meanwhile Gorbachev arrived in the Soviet steppes and Russian leader Boris Yeltsin pressed the flesh about the Arctic circle Tuesday as the leaders toured to boost their political platforms.

The separate trips came two weeks before elections to the new presidency of the Russian Federation, home to half the country's people and more than a month after the leaders hammered out a nine-republic accord that broke the country's political impasse.

Gorbachev hopes to assess the agricultural situation and boost workers' spirits in the wheat-growing republic of Kazakhstan.

Gorbachev also planned to discuss the Kazakh parliament's order in 1990 to close a Soviet nuclear testing site at Semipalatinsk.

By taking the palace affairs portfolio, Koirala keeps liaison with the palace in his own hands. Suspicions are still alive over whether Birendra and his aristocratic supporters have really resigned themselves to a British-style constitutional monarchy.

Elections in 1959, which brought Koirala's elder brother to power, were followed less than two years later by a palace coup led by Birendra's father, King Mahendra.

For the next 30 years, Mahendra and Birendra ruled through a system of elected, but non-party, councils. Political parties were banned until Birendra yielded to the pro-democracy movement.

Congress party sources said the cabinet was expected to be expanded later.

Koirala named one woman, Sbalaja Acharya, and one Muslim, Sheikh Idris, to the cabinet in the world's only officially Hindu Kingdom.

He gave Acharya two portfolios — forests and soil conservation and agriculture — both critical to the future of one of the world's poorest countries.

The great bulk of the population ekes out a precarious living from farming. Those in the high Himalayan foothills depend on wood for fuel.

German SPD leader confident party will return to power

BREMEN, Germany (R) — Germany's Social Democrats (SPD) elected a stylish new national leader, Schleswig-Holstein state premier Bjoern Engholm, and set out Wednesday to prepare a return to power in Bonn.

Engholm, riding high in opinion polls as Chancellor Helmut Kohl's star sinks, said SPD triumphs in state elections in recent years paved the way for a national victory in 1994.

"German Social Democrats are on their way to renewed responsibility for our country," said Engholm, who was education minister in the last SPD national government. SPD Chancellor Willy Brandt and Helmut Schmidt ruled in Bonn from 1969 to 1982.

The new leader, at 51 the oldest of a rising SPD power elite dubbed the party's "Tuscani faction" for its refined lifestyle, struck a moderate tone at the party's congress. Unopposed, he won an overwhelming 458 of the 470 votes.

Engholm supported a compromise on Bonn's new world role — sending troops abroad in peacekeeping units rather than on military missions as Kohl wants — and break down the barriers between Germany's rich

west and struggling east.

He pledged to open the centre-left SPD more to the business world and warned Germans not to forget the strong economic challenges they faced from Japan, South East Asia and the U.S.

The SPD suffered its worst defeat in three decades last December when Oskar Lafontaine won only 33.5 per cent of the vote against Kohl, the triumphant chancellor of unity.

But the dramatic collapse of a star German economy's ex-Communist economy and Kohl's decision to break his campaign promise and raise taxes to finance unification have shaken the chancellor's centre-right government.

Kohl's Christian Democrats have a comfortable majority with the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP) but his partners are drifting towards SPD positions as the government's appeal wanes.

"The coalition in Bonn can no longer cope. It's worn out, immobile, exhausted," said Engholm, one of the nine SPD state premiers who, through their new majority in Bonn's upper house of parliament, can now veto laws passed by Kohl's coalition.

The suave new leader took

special care to pledge support for the eastern SPD members, who feel vastly outnumbered and practically overlooked in the western-dominated party.

"We are now one state. We want and we need to become one people and one society," he said. "A new German trauma — the trauma of division in a united state — must not occur."

Reflecting broad anti-war feeling in the SPD, Engholm said German troops, barred by law from operating outside NATO, can only join peacekeeping or environmental protection units.

"I have nothing against a leading role for Germany in the world — a leading role in the struggle against hunger, poverty and environmental destruction," he said to loud applause.

Expecting a heated debate on the issue Thursday, he appealed to leftist delegates — who reject any new role for Germany — not to slander the United Nations "blue helmet" peacekeepers as "disgraced militarists."

The SPD, which debates Germany's world role Thursday, can deny Kohl the two-thirds majority needed in parliament to amend the constitution and send German troops on Gulf-style missions.

Thai rescue workers recover bodies of all people killed in crash

BANGKOK (AP) — Rescue workers have recovered the bodies of all 223 people killed aboard a Boeing jet that exploded in flight, but investigators had yet to determine the cause of the crash Wednesday.

The Austrian airline Air Lauda said it would be difficult to identify all victims of the fiery crash. Some corpses had been charred and others severely mangled. The last body was recovered Wednesday.

Authorities refused to comment on a possible cause, saying Boeing Co. and U.S. government experts were launching detailed investigations Wednesday. Speculation has focused on the possibility of a terrorist bombing.

The Vienna-bound Lauda Air Boeing 767, which originated in Hong Kong, blew apart over jungle 160 kilometres northwest of Bangkok near Thailand's western border with Burma.

Speculation on who may have planted a bomb on the craft has ranged from anti-American terrorists, to a former Air Lauda employee, to drug dealers target-

ing a senior United Nations anti-narcotics official who was on board.

Thai officials fear thousands of local villagers who have combed the bodies and wreckage for money, watches, electronic goods and other valuables may have tampered with crucial evidence.

Niki Lauda, the airline's founder, inspected the crash site Tuesday and said the largest pieces of wreckage found measured 5-by-2 metres, "about half the size of the largest piece in the Lockerbie crash." A Pan Am Boeing 747 was destroyed over the Scottish town of Lockerbie by a bomb in 1988.

Lauda, who returned to Vienna late Tuesday, told reporters his airline had received no threat. However, a Western embassy security officer and several airline sources in Bangkok said a employee of the airline was fired several months ago after threatening to blow up one of its planes in a bid to extort money.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the employee had demanded an un-

specified sum of money and threatened to bomb an aircraft or office if he was not paid. They did not identify the employee.

The British press has speculated that drug barons may have targeted Donald McIntosh, a Bangkok-based adviser to the U.N. Drug Control Programme. But the organisation does little enforcement work, instead concentrating on broader programmes to stem drug production and use.

On Wednesday, several Austrian newspapers reported that five kilograms of heroin was discovered in the wreckage.

Lauda said he had no confirmation that heroin was found, but did say Vienna airport police had told him they suspected that Lauda Air flights might have been used by drug couriers from Thailand to Vienna.

"The police in Vienna were on the tracks of a dealer who allegedly was on board," he said at a news conference. "Everything was prepared in Vienna to catch him."

Chinese students mark massacre anniversary with banners, leaflets

PEKING (R) — Peking University students have defiantly unfurled posters in memory of those killed in China's crackdown on a mass pro-democracy movement two years ago.

Students interviewed Wednesday agreed that Tuesday's action, the first reported campus protest before the anniversary of the crackdown on June 4, was a daring act at China's most prestigious college.

The university was a centre for the mass demonstrations that swept Peking in 1989 only to be crushed by army tanks and guns.

Two posters reading "we won't forget June 4" were hung from a window of a dormitory for graduate students that was a centre of protests during the anniversary last year, according to several witnesses.

The dormitory, like others on

the campus a grey-brick structure where students are crammed six to a room, was searched by university security guards Wednesday.

There were no reports of arrests. Witnesses said leaflets were tossed from the window during the protest. One called on students to wear white, the traditional Chinese colour of mourning, during the anniversary period.

"It was all over in a few minutes," said one student. "Most students probably don't even know about it."

A university spokesman, contacted by telephone, denied the incident took place.

Voices of campus protest have been virtually silenced since the heady days of May and June in 1989 when Peking University stu-

dents were at the forefront of demonstrations demanding greater democracy.

The protests were brutally crushed with heavy loss of life and student leaders who failed to escape a security dragnet and flee the country were rounded up and jailed. Many students who supported the pro-democracy campaign were expelled.

Students said they feared any expression of dissent could jeopardise their job prospects after graduation.

"What's the point of protesting?" asked one student. "If we can get on with our lives in peace, then we might as well let bygones be bygones."

"On the surface students may seem calm, but in deep in our hearts we feel pain," another said.

Cambodian army rolls back Khmer Rouge in west

BATTAMBANG, Cambodia (R) — Cambodian soldiers are usually quick to smile, and the group lounging in the fortified ruins of the centuries-old Khmer temple of Banon for once have reason to be cheerful.

Though only 15 kilometres of dirt road and a wide plain separate their hilltop eyrie from their Khmer Rouge foes, Captain Pau Thuen's unit has just been treated to a lavish party by grateful local officials in appreciation of their efforts during three months of tough fighting.

As the dry season came to a close in the country's rice bowl, the guerrillas had been pushed back and a ceasefire called by the United Nations has put the war on hold in the run-up to the next round of peace talks beginning Sunday in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta.

It has been a while since anyone fired the machinegun set up behind a wall of carved lintels, or broke open the ammunition boxes stacked in an overgrown 12th century shrine that would make an archaeologist swoon.

"The Khmer Rouge tried very hard to seize areas," said Communist Party district chief Pann Chhay, holding court on a verandah in a house at the foot of the

hill.

"This is a big victory for us," he said.

In February the Khmer Rouge, who have fought the government in Phnom Penh for more than a decade, claimed that Battambang, Cambodia's second city 25 kilometres east of Banon, was about to fall and were urging its citizens to flee.

An artillery bombardment caused death and destruction in the market place. Government counterattacks drove them back down Route 10 to the town of Pailin.

The front line is now just a few kilometres from Pailin, whose ruby mines are rich prizes for whoever controls the town. The town itself is deserted except for Khmer Rouge troops, according to a Reuters correspondent who visited recently.

"Absolutely we will take it back," Pann Chhay said.

Pailin would be a difficult town to hold and resupply, however, and Khmer Rouge artillery has been active despite the ceasefire, laying down heavy bombardments on May 15 and May 25, Pann Chhay said.

The confidence of local officials has been boosted by huge seizures of weapons sent to the

Khmer Rouge by their Chinese sponsors via the Thai military, they say.

Some of the captured arsenal is on display in a field in Battambang. The main attraction is a T-54 tank, stopped in its tracks by a rocket thrown from the turret.

Inside, a few bones, tufts of hair and a gagging smell attest to the fate of the crew.

The rest of the haul is enough to fill the five captured Chinese trucks — rifles still in their packing grease, anti-tank guns, rocket-launchers, heavy machineguns, a field gun, mortars, grenades and landmines.

With such a pile in the middle of the city, the Phnom Penh soldiers' penchant for firing their guns in the air when it pleases them is disconcerting.

The Khmer Rouge's abandonment of so many arms raises questions about their much-vaunted fighting ability.

It also fuels the government's suspicion that the Khmer Rouge, whose rule of Cambodia in the late 1970s cost a million lives, are stockpiling weapons ready to renege on a peace settlement proposed by the U.N. Security Council.

The Khmer Rouge have already said they will resume

Walesa's son charged with drunken bicycling

WARSAW (AP) — President Lech Walesa's 18-year-old son was detained by police on a misdemeanor charge of riding his bicycle while drunk, the president's spokesman said.

Walesa, the second eldest of the president's eight children, was stopped by officers on May 13 on a street in the family's hometown of Gdansk, police spokesman Maria Kazmierczak said. No data has been set for a misdemeanor court hearing, she said.

According to a report in the Gdansk daily Wiecez Wyzwaz, the young Walesa was riding in a zig-zag pattern when police stopped him. A breath test registered above the legal limit for intoxication, the newspaper said. He was released into the custody of officers of the Office for Protection of the Government, which provides protection to the president and his family, according to the report.

The president's spokesman, Andrzej Drzyzga, described the young man as "restless and full of dynamism" and said the constant guard around the family has proven difficult for him. "No every young man is able to accept the limitations of being able to move around," Drzyzga said.

The president feels "blameworthy," the spokesman said. "But at the same time he adds that everyone who has children knows that at some time of their lives kids don't want to listen to their parents' good advice, remarks or warnings." Walesa will "not try to influence the case," Drzyzga said.

Johnson, Griffith mobbed in hospital

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri (AP) — Actor Don Johnson and his wife, actress Melanie Griffith, were mobbed by a local hospital to visit Johnson's father and were immediately hit with the nursing staff. Several nurses at St. John's regional health centre collected autographs from the two stars as they visited with Johnson's father, Wayne Johnson, who is recovering from heart surgery.

Johnson's cousin, Doug Johnson, Doug Johnson said the visit turned into a family reunion of sorts. "The family all got together," he said. "I hadn't seen (Don) in 10 years. It was enjoyable." Johnson started in television's Miami Vice. Griffith's movie credits include Working Girl and Bonfire Of The Vanities.

Georgians buy up land from bankrupt Saudi prince

ROME, Georgia (AP) — Saudi Arabia's Prince Faisal, his dream of a castle in Georgia broken in U.S. bankruptcy court, is losing his 8000 acres (3,200 hectares) of scenic north Georgia property.

More than 300 farmers, land speculators and the curious crowded under a circus tent by the Etowah River as 1,200 acres (490 hectares) of the land sold at auction.

The auction, which raised more than \$1.6 million, was the first of three summer sales where Faisal's north Georgia holdings will be sold to help pay his \$21 million debt.

His lavish mansion in Atlanta already has been sold for \$7.5 million. Faisal, 46, came to Georgia in 1975 for military training and started buying land along the river, hoping eventually to build an English-style manor complete with castle. But court testimony showed he fell behind in payments on the land for more than two years. It is being sold to satisfy his creditors.

Police stop illegal striptease contest

OSLO (AP) — When police stopped an illegal striptease contest at a Norwegian nightclub, disappointed onlookers took off their own clothes in protest. Police had ordered six amateur strippers at the Skomvaer Discotheque in Porsgrunn to get dressed, following complaints about the shows during the weekend. "I took my clothes off to protest against the police. It is ridiculous to stop a strip show," a 25-year-old male spectator told the Dagbladet newspaper. None of the spontaneous strippers were identified in the report. It said men and women cast off their garments, but that most stopped when guests told them to get dressed. "I don't know what happened, but when guests told all their clothes off it is going too far in my eyes," Bent Rasmussen, the nightclub's owner, told Dagbladet. "But people did have fun, and that was the most important."

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